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CGT-RA SECRETARY GENERAL ADDRESSES DEMONSTRATORS

PY311749 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2305 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 30 Mar (NA) -- Saul Ubaldini, secretary general of the General Labor Confederation of the Argentine Republic [CGT-RA], stated tonight that the CGT-RA will continue to demand that "The government not only honor the claims made by the workers, but also that it restore freedom and justice," adding that these objectives will be attained "through democracy." In the speech delivered before the demonstrators in front of the Song to Work [Canto al Trabajo] Monument, Ubaldini made "the military dictatorship" responsible for the death of worker Jose Benedicto Ortiz. Ortiz was murdered in Mendoza during the nationwide demonstration held 1 year ago.

Ubaldini said that today is the first anniversary of "the glorious demonstration held on 30 March 1982 protesting against the military dictatorship." At this point, the demonstrators shouted "The military dictatorship will end." Ubaldini then said that "Last year's demonstration was not only held to demand observance of the rights of the workers, but also the restoration of democracy, which is something that the people want and deserve." "We were brutally beaten up and incarcerated, and many people were injured during the demonstration. Villainous bullets killed Jose Benedicto Ortiz in Mendoza merely for asking for bread, peace and work. Ortiz had no other weapon than his calloused hands," Ubaldini said. The demonstrators then shouted "Murderers, murderers."

Ubaldini went on to say that "Nobody has claimed responsibility for the murder which occurred 1 year ago. However, we konw that the military dictatorship is responsible for it." The demonstrators then shouted "The military, who gave away the nation, should be shot." Ubaldini concluded by asking the people to sing the national anthem and to "disperse peacefully as a sign of the humanitarian, nationalistic and Christian feelings of the labor movement."

Navy Chief on Strike

PY301732 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] The navy commander in chief granted a press conference at the Comandante Espora Naval Air Base shortly before returning to the federal capital. Admiral Ruben Franco stated that the strike held last Monday was an irresponsible and thoughtless action by union leaders, adding that Argentina cannot afford measures of this kind.

The government is seriously committed to increasing wages in real terms by 5 percent this year, he said. Admiral Franco concluded by stating that there currently are no reasons for handing over power to the persons elected in the October elections earlier than the established date.

HERALD ON POSSIBLE MILITARY-LABOR ALLIANCE

PY311617 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 30 Mar 83 p 10

[Editorial: "Alarming Spectre"]

[Text] The idea that the military and the labour unions -- or, more precisely, certain military and union factions -- might eventually get together and form an alliance designed to give the country a strong government has been disturbing democrats for several years. In the last few weeks there has been no shortage of signs suggesting that such an alliance may be much more than mere speculation.

Certainly some of the country's leading politicians take the prospect seriously enough not to dismiss it entirely. When interviewed by the NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS news agency, Oscar Alende, Angel Robledo, and Conrado Storani condemned the very idea of a military-union alliance outright, although none of them seemed to think it would be consummated. Italo Luder, for his part, more cautiously restricted himself to suggesting that the military keep their noses out of Peronism's affairs.

In the present circumstances it would be strange indeed if the advantages of such an alliance had not crossed the minds of some military strategists and union leaders. Both know that their institutions possess more real power than the political parties but are nonetheless incapable of really imposing their will on the country if they behave as rivals instead of partners. The military can rule the country whenever they like, but they are incapable of giving it good government because this always depends on a considerable degree of concrete civilian support. When the military are sitting on the sidelines the labour unions, if they are aggressive enough, can prevent an elected government from applying the policies it thinks best, as they have demonstrated time and time again. Both, in other words, are fully capable of, and on occasion willing to, play a dog-in-the-manager role, occupying the centres of effective power although they cannot make proper use of them. But if the two strongest factors in the country's political life got together, some of their respective leaders no doubt surmise, that difficulty might not prove insuperable.

Anything like a resurrection of the old military-civilian alliance that did service during the first years of Peronist government might solve one urgent problem -- finding a way to fill the power vacuum at the heart of Argentina as an organized society -- but only at the cost of generating many others. The sort of regime this would provide, even if it did manage to win support in the polling booths, would be certain to speed up Argentina's decline. There is only one political system that will allow Argentina to find its real self again and, on the basis of reality, start building a nation more in accordance with the aspirations of its inhabitants, and that is the democratic system. But a democratic system is impossible unless the political parties, which are the natural representatives of the Argentine people in all its diversity, become strong enough to put both the military and the unions in their proper places. Right now the parties are excessively weak. Unless the military and the unions desist from using their power and start deferring to them, their chances of growing strong enough to play their allotted role will be small. Unless this happens, however, Argentina will continue to be a political, and in consequence economic and social, disaster area.

MCNAMAR ENDS TALKS, LEAVES FOR RIO 31 MAR

PY311402 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1255 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 31 Mar (TELAM) -- The U.S. deputy secretary of the Treasury, Richard McNamar, stated here today that the Argentine Government has been making good progress in its economic program, which will yield very good long-term results. In a statement made this morning at Ezeiza Airport shortly before leaving for Rio de Janeiro, McNamar said he had come to Argentina to hold talks in relation to the progress the government has been making in the economic sector. Asked whether Argentina requested any loan from the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank, he said: No. No loan was requested and the issue was not even discussed. Finally, McNamar said Argentine-U.S. relations are increasingly and steadily improving.

MEXICAN REPRESENTATIVE SPEAKS AT 77 MEETING

FY311325 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1832 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 30 Mar (TELAM) -- Ignacio Ovalle Fernandez, Mexican ambassador in Buenos Aires, speaking on behalf of his country at the third plenary session of the fifth meeting of ministers of the Group of 77 this morning, condemned the arms expenditures of the superpowers and the renewal of anachronistic colonialist adventures as if our people had not had enough of the unequal treatment they are getting. The Mexican representative also expressed his wish that "This great, beautiful and promising Argentine Republic enjoy peace and progress and full sovereignty over its entire territory."

Orvalle Fernandez spoke in the name of the Mexican delegation on the draft agenda for the sixth UNCTAD meeting to be held in Belgrade next June. He also referred to the future economic cooperation between the developing countries and the Group of 77.

Ovalle Fernandez said today that on this occasion we must -- within the framework of solidarity characterizing the meetings of the Group of 77 -- define our position for the forthcoming sixth UNCTAD meeting and use this opportunity to promote measures aimed at strengthening cooperation among ourselves. He went on to say that the message of the 77 to the world must be clear and precise. He requested the coordination of measures to allow us to emerge from the crisis. The Mexican diplomat also said that these measures must be coherent and interrelated to permit the immediate reactivation and recovery of the world economy within the framework of the structural reform of the system aimed at establishing a new international economic order. He also said that the lack of political willpower by some states has prevented the establishment of the new economic order. He added that he is convinced that had the economic rights and duties of states and announcements and actions for establishing the new international economic order been instrumented properly, we would not be facing a crisis of this magnitude.

Ovalle Fernandez also said that measures must be implemented in order to change the current direction of the industrialized countries' macroeconomic policies, to eliminate protectionism, to carry out structural adjustments and stabilize the market for basic products, to increase liquidity and international reserves, and to increase the flow of financial resources from multilateral development institutions and from other sources toward the developing countries. He also requested that during this meeting the formulas for strengthening our collective self-confidence be identified.

He recalled that the process of economic cooperation between developing countries has evolved within the UNCTAD framework. He added that these guidelines have already been established during the meetings held in Mexico, Caracas, Arusha, Manila and in other Third World meetings. Orvalle Fernandez warned, however, that our efforts are in the initial stages and that they should be strengthened. The Mexican diplomat said: we should not waste our energy in tasks curtailing progress. He added: Let us use imagination to make progress on concrete matters beneficial to all.

The Mexican representative went on to explain that even if the crisis cannot be eliminated through measures of economic cooperation between developing countries, it can, in part, be checked. He again emphasized that in order to do this we must put our political willpower into action and carry out concrete projects. He said that collective economic security will require defining programs and actions in critical areas such as food and new and renewable sources of energy.

16,000 DISMISSED FOR POLITICAL, UNION REASONS

PY311337 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Excerpt] (Johnny Bernal), chairman of the social policy commission of the Chamber of Deputies, has stated that there are currently 16,000 private and public employees who have been dismissed for political and union reasons. He added that these people are experiencing a difficult situation due to the economic crisis that is troubling the Bolivian people. (Bernal) said that these people, who have already asked the government and the legislative branch to resolve the problem, should be reinstated as soon as possible. In conclusion, (Bernal) stated that there are no reasons for the delay in finding a solution to this problem.

PRIVATE MINING SECTOR SCORES ECONOMIC MEASURES

PY301314 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 20 Mar 83 p 10

[Text] In a preliminary study on the recently issued economic measures, the medium-sized mining sector states that "The economic measures that were recently approved by the government are strangling both the private and public export sectors." The medium-sized miners assoication states that the recent economic measures in general, "follow the same guidelines of the economic package issued last November, and consequently will yield the same results, that is, they will be ineffective in curbing inflation, inadequate for eradicating the increasing gap between the official and parallel currency market and insufficient for achieving the reactivation of the productive apparatus."

The study adds that the measures "lack a control and regulation policy for fiscal expenditures and for the huge deficits of public service enterprises, which are the main factors that have caused the economic crisis and generated inflation." It notes that the economic measures "are strangling both the private and public export sectors since on one hand they considerably raise production costs, while on the other they freeze incomes by reinstating the unreal and immobile exchange rate policy, which for the last 25 years has promoted the consumption of imported goods and undermined those activities that generate currency."

The preliminary study notes that since the new economic measures do not include "any definition regarding royalties, which experienced a temporary 30-percent increase in November 1982 during the 100-day period, and since the government continues to enforce this measure despite the unquestionable and accelerated hike in costs, the government is enforcing an illegal measure."

It adds that"since there was a freeze in earnings -- $1 per 196 Bolivian pesos -- and an increase in the cost of the dollar -- $1 per 450 Bolivian pesos -- in addition to the illegal enforcement of excessive taxes, this is fatally weakening the productive export capacity of private and government enterprises, consequently causing a decline in hard currency income." Moreover, it notes that the announcement of the economic measures and the granting of an IDB credit, which is partially aimed at the mining sector, coincide. Negotiations for the credit were started at the beginning of 1982. The study adds that this credit "helps but does not solve the problems of the mining sector."

The preliminary study notes that the productive sector that is most harmed "is the private mining sector, which has experienced a sharp increase in the cost of energy while other sectors have seen a decrease. Government officials themselves have admitted that in so doing, the private-medium sized mining sector is subsidizing the other consumers, including other business sectors." The study notes that the medium-size mining sector is "the target of the deliberate harassment which official circles have unleashed against the private sector." The study asks: "Where is a gradual policy heading that increases the deficits of public service enterprises and is determined to destroy the productive private sector?"

ASBORA SEES COMMUNIST PLOT IN WORKERS STRIKE

PY302120 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text of Bolivian Radio Broadcasting Association, Asbora, communique released through a nationwide network of affiliate stations in La Paz on 30 March]

[Text] The Bolivian Radio Broadcasting Association wishes to inform the people of Bolivia in general that the strike of radio workers has proved to be a total failure, clearly showing that so-called strong-arm measures are unsuitable and accomplish nothing other than the categorical rejection of the citizenry, which longs for peace and traquillity. Asbora herewith reiterates that the strike was orchestrated by the Labor Ministry, which has been turned into just another cell of the Communist Party which, pursuing factional interests, is engaged in a plan aimed at eradicating the freedom of expression and designed to reach its crowning point with the confiscation of the news media. The idea is to shape the news media to the pattern used in the Soviet Union, where information is released by the state alone in keeping with its own specific party viewpoints.

Asbora states that in view of the fact that dialogue has been broken off because of the inflexibility of union leaders, it will hold no future negotiations with these leaders and will strictly comply with legal provisions and procedures. As to the demand of journalists who work for the news departments of the various news media, Asbora has appealed to the Supreme Court of Justice and is prepared to comply with its ruling. In the meantime, it will not change its decision to view the ruling of the labor department as illegal and arbitrary because Asbora is a nonprofit organization which has no employees.

Asbora is fully aware of the critical economic situation of the country and believes that the workers have a right to make petitions as long as they follow the proper legal protocol. However, the strike staged by the workers of the radio stations, rather than seeking reconciliation, evidences an unusual behavior and shows that it is pursuing political goals and seeks to stage a confrontation between workers and employers in keeping with extremist guidelines directed at exacerbating class struggle within an authoritarian rather than democratic framework. Asbora wishes to make it clear that it has instructed all member enterprises throughout the nation to abstain from paying their workers for the days they did not work and to pay a special bonus to those who have come to work, thus fulfilling their duty as patriots and citizens.

In conclusion, Asbora expresses its concern over the fact that instead of seeking solutions to problems, the national government seems to be stimulating these problems because [words indistinct], which is not in keeping with its true role. The government must once and for all make it clear whether private news media have or have not the necessary guarantees to perform their task. Asbora will defend to the end its inalienable democratic and pluralist beliefs and respect for the national Constitution and will staunchly oppose anarchic and strong-arm measures.

[Signed] Asbora National Executive Board.

DELFIM NETTO DENIES REQUEST FOR NEW U.S. LOAN

FY301249 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Brazilian economic officials have denied that Brazil has applied for a new loan from the U.S. Government. They have also denied that Brazil requested the U.S. Government to act as an intermediary in the negotiation of an extension of the period during which Brazil must repay its debt.

Planning Minister Delfim Netto, who issued the denial, stated that Brazil has already borrowed $1.82 billion in short-term loans from the United States and that such loans have already been repaid.

Minister Delfim Netto gave assurances that he did not ask representatives of the U.S. Treasury to contact the international financial community in order to facilitate an extension of the period during which Brazil must repay its debts.

This information was released after Brazilian economic officials met with U.S. Treasury officials. During the meeting, work teams were set up to analyze the problems between the two countries.

NEW TERMS LAID DOWN FOR OIL PURCHASES

FY291654 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 Mar 83 p 38

[Text] The new terms that Brazil has set for oil purchases from traditional producers are being accepted willingly. Only three countries: Kuwait, Abu Dhabi and the United Arab Emirates reacted unfavorably to the new 180-day payment period and direct financing by the supplier's government instead of by banks.

This information was supplied by Eliseu Misconti, international adviser of the Mines and Energy Ministry. He said that the above-mentioned countries insisted on getting paid for their oil within 30 days, "but since things have changed we stopped buying our oil from them."

The adviser explained that the current purchasing policy is to ask for a long period of payment, at least 180 days, whenever an exchange contract is not signed with the supplier country, that is, a contract by which Brazil buys the oil and the supplier acquires Brazilian products.

Eliseu indicated that the most important development is Brazil's decision to have its oil purchases financed directly by the government of the exporting country, thus eliminating the intermediary or the bank and opening a new channel for trade. Doing away with the bank commission results in some saving, "which is not very significant, but nowadays every dollar counts," Eliseu said.

The price of oil started to decline on the international market last year, but only now, after OPEC stablized the price at $29 per barrel, has the Brazilian Government clearly stated its new terms for purchasing oil. This year the country will import an average of 620,000 barrels of oil per day, while 320,000 additional barrels will be supplied by local wells. The overall cost of this year's oil imports should amount to approximately $6.5 billion, which means that up to $2 billion could be saved.

CACEX DEVISES NEW INCENTIVE FOR TEXTILE EXPORTS

PY301330 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 29 Mar 83 p 19

[Text] Brasilia -- Cacex [Banco do Brasil Foreign Trade Department] Director Carlos Viacava predicted yesterday that textile exports this year should amount to $1.5 billion, against only $800 million last year.

According to Viacava, that performance should result from a new incentive mechanism instituted yesterday by the Finance Ministry under the name of the "yellow-green [colors of the Brazilian flag] drawback." So that domestic industry need not import foreign components for products intended for export in order to qualify for an import tax refund known as a drawback, the Brazilian Government decided to grant "yellow-green drawback" benefits to similar operations in the internal market.

This is how the "yellow-green drawback" will work: If a local producer sells cotton thread for the manufacture of textiles for export with the intermediation of a trading company -- a company specializing in overseas sales -- the operation will be entitled to fiscal incentives granted through internal revenue benefits, ICM [tax on movement of merchandise] exemption, IPI [finished good tax] tax credits and subsidized credit under Central Bank Resolution 674.

Viacava said that this method allows the government to meet a need of the textile sector, where the new mechanism -- the "yellow-green drawback" -- will be tested. If it proves successful, this mechanism can be applied to other sectors as well. He fended off criticism that the mechanism bestows a privilege on the trading companies -- which will control the operation of the system -- by saying that the manufactuerers will also benefit, because Cacex will favorably view requests for registration to operate as trading companies filed by any group of interested firms.

STATE GOVERNORS FACE LACK OF FUNDS, HIGH DEBTS

PY301628 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 27 Mar 83 p 4

[Excerpts] Brasilia -- A shortage of funds, high debts and a great deal to do because of promises made to the constituency, is the general situation which the new governors must face. For those elected by the opposition there is another complication: How to handle their relations with the federal government, which is characterized by a strongly centralizing political and administrative policy.

According to a survey which the government itself made, by putting together the revenues of all 23 states, the average nationwide percentage of resources available for future planning -- on the basis of the latest data, that is, those supplied in 1980 -- amounts to only 7.4 percent. This means that there is practically no elbow room available for planning and implementing projects over which the governor has autonomous decisionmaking power.

According to the Planning Ministry's Secretariat for Liaison With States and Countries (SAREM) "In most states, current expenditures by far surpass revenues."

Interior Minister Mario Andreazza, despite his caution when handling the matter, does provide a clue. "As long as the proposals of the opposition governors agree with the federal government's list of priorities and as long as these proposals remain within the limits of available resources, the relations between these states and the Interior Ministry will be good."

However, the minister also warned: "This relationship will be based on the goals and priorities set up by the government, whose main concern is to resolve problems arising from current regional divisions.

As far as his ministry is concerned -- and this ministry is of key value for the allotment of resources to states and counties -- Andreazza said that the governors elected by the opposition will be treated "normally." Meanwhile, none of these governors have submitted a formal request for a meeting with the interior minister. In this regard, Andreazza pointed out that "these meetings could only take place after the opposition governors meet with President Figueiredo."

As for the Planning Ministry -- which has control over all the budgets in the country -- Minister Delfim Netto has already stated the official position: "Relations with the opposition governors will be based on the Constitution." He is not impressed by the fact that the programs of these new governors do not agree with those of the federal government.

"I have noticed that all these programs show considerable concern over social problems. This is good, because these problems are the ultimate target of President Figueiredo's administration," he said.

IMBEL CONVERTING WEAPONS TO USE NATO AMMUNITION

PY301639 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 21 Mar 83 p 13

[By Ronaldo S. Olive]

[Excerpts] The worldwide economic crisis has had a strong impact on the military equipment refurbishment programs of many countries. This impact has been even more deeply felt by the poorest nations. Even the price of relatively simple and cheap arms like pistols, rifles and machineguns have been successively increased, thus making it difficult for the armed forces to update their techniques and material.

The military materiel plant of Itajuba (which now belongs to the Brazilian Ordnance Industry, IMBEL, has been carrying out several programs to convert and update existing light arms, making it possible for them to use standard ammunition.

On the basis of its earlier experience acquired with the conversion of Mauser 1908 rifles [to use NATO 7.62 caliber ammunition] and the studies conducted by its research department, the Itajuba plant has technology and expertise to make similar conversions of many different makes of weapons. In fact, substantial contracts have already been signed in Brazil and abroad to make these conversions, an activity which nowadays takes up most of the plant's time.

UNITED LEFT RELEASES PROGRAM FOR DEMOCRATIC STATE

PY300216 Lima EL DIARIO DE LA MARKA in Spanish 12 Mar 83 special supplement p 13

[Excerpts of United Left General Program for a Democratic, People's Sovereign and Independent State Leading to Socialism Released in Lima -- date not given]

[Text] 1. The United Left [UL] proposes and struggles for the establishment of a democratic, popular, sovereign and independent state to pave the way to socialism under the leadership of the working class and based on a workers-peasants alliance and on the unity of the people. Its form of organization is the people's power, the people's assemblies, and the people's unrestricted exercise of political and labor freedom; universal, secret and direct elections with voting rights granted to both literate and illiterate civilians and soldiers. This state will form a democratic and revolutionary armed forces with the participation of the masses in the defense of internal order and territorial integrity. It will eliminate all the organs of repression and oppression of the people.

2. The liberation of the nation from imperialist domination, turning Peru into an independent, sovereign, united, prosperous and nonaligned country.

3. Restructuring of production activities, emphasizing agricultural development as the basis for a national industry, by combining the people's individual and collective initiative with state management through decentralized planning, pluralism in the forms of ownership through the nationalization of and state control over enterprises in the hands of the imperialists, and of the bourgeoisie with a monopolistic character or subject to imperialistic interests. Economic development will be primarily based on the mobilization of national resources and forces, as well as on the enthusiasm, initiative and energy of the working people. Implementation of an authentic agrarian reform to provide land to those who work it, and to distribute land to peasants who can work it under a truly democratic system, to definitely do away with the chieftain's system. Well-being in rural areas will be guaranteed.

4. Economic, political and administrative decentralization, eliminating bureaucratic centralism and ensuring full development of Peru's various regions.

5. The democratic and people's power will ensure equal rights for men and women. It will guarantee full employment and universal social security. It will see to it that people are properly fed and that their standard of living is continously improved. It will give priority to preventive medicine and free medical care. It will plan the construction of housing units as the basis for meeting the peoples. It will stamp out illiteracy and will make education obligatory and free.

6. The democratic and people's power will provide stimulus to a national, scientific and popular education, which is accessible to the opportunity-deprived majority. It will stimulate all artistic and literary currents capable of promoting progress and of enriching the tradition of the people. It will protect the national cultural patrimony and the patrimony of the Quechua and Aymara nationalities and other national minorities.

7. The democratic and people's power will adopt a foreign policy based on the defense of the nation's independence, anti-imperialism and nonalignment. It will implement a policy of solidarity with the international working class and with the peoples of the world who struggle for their national liberation, socialism and against colonialism and racism. It will reject any form of interventionism.

ALVAREZ ANNOUNCES SUPPORT FOR NEW PARTY

PY252130 Paris AFP in Spanish 1128 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] Acegua, Uruguay, 25 Mar (AFP) -- In a lengthy declaration he read in this city on the Brazilian border, 440 km northeast of Montevideo, Uruguayan President Lt Gen (Ret) Gregorio Alvarez criticized the Blanco and Colorado Parties, Uruguay's traditional majority parties. The Uruguayan president announced that, in addition to its administrative duties, the civic military process will now sponsor a new nationalist and centrist political movement capable of building a genuine and independent democratic system. President Alvarez charged that the Blanco and Colorado Parties are under the influence of key figures who remain committed to foreign ideologies and interests.

After giving assurances that the objective of the process that started in 1973 was the recovery of institutions and of genuine, real and enduring democracy, Alvarez pointed to the firm possibility that general elections may be held in 1984.

Alvarez voiced concern over politicians and their radical and irritating actions which, he claimed, are similar to those of our bitter past. Officials explained that the president was referring to the many excesses at the recently installed conventions of the traditional parties. The key factors that prompted the official decision are intolerance, dissatisfaction, the offers of utopian democracy by men who have already failed or whose ideas are already obsolete, the lack of a clear position in the face of the infiltration by suspicious organizations and the presence of arrogant leaders who will destroy their own parties.

The idea of a new party which would run against the legally authorized parties, namely, the Blanco and Colorado Parties and the Civic Union, was mentioned by former Interior Minister and current State Counselor Col (Ret) Nestor Bolentini long ago. The new party, the Patriotic Union for the Salvation of Democracy (UPSD), received moderate official support in a speech the president delivered on 9 February. In that speech, President Alvarez pointed to the improper behavior of some leaders and mentioned the possibility of sponsoring a new nationalist movement.

Colonel Bolentini had said that it was necessary to unite dissident Colorado and Blanco Party members, as well as other sectors, in a party that Socialists and Christian Democratic factions could apparently also join.

FOREIGN MINISTER REVEALS 10 POLES GRANTED ASYLUM

PY291452 Paris AFP in Spanish 1317 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] Montevideo, 29 Mar (AFP) -- Foreign Minister Carlos Maeso revealed today that the Uruguayan Government has already granted political asylum to about a dozen Polish citizens who arrived on board fishing vessels. Maeso said that the asylum was granted to them upon request. The foreign minister stated that political asylum was granted to three Polish citizens last week and to seven of them at the beginning of the year. The foreign minister failed to give the names of the Polish exiles.

MANAGUA REPORTS SOLIDARITY RALLY AT U.S. EMBASSY

PA301817 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] "Listen, Nicaragua: Mexico is with your struggle:" This was chanted by thousands of Mexicans in front of the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City during a demonstration held today in solidarity with the Nicaraguan people and in repudiation of U.S. imperimperialism's aggressive escalation against Nicaragua. Here is a report from Mexico by (Andrea Fernandez):

[Begin recording] The Marines who guard the embassy and the U.S. diplomats clearly heard the speeches of the three speakers who, backed by the demonstrators, promised to express solidarity with the Nicaraguan people and even to form support brigades if the Somozist attacks continue. They promised to support the Mexican foreign policy and the proposals for peace in the area. The organizations also demanded an end to the attacks on Nicaragua, a stop to the imminent direct intervention in Nicaragua and the suspension of military and economic aid to the governments of Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala.

In view of the intense campaign of aggression against the Nicaraguan people, the representatives of Mexican women's, youth and workers organizations said that the rally was only the first of a number of solidarity events and protest demonstrations to express the concerns of the Mexican people, who again state their opposition to intervention in Central America.

STEEL INDUSTRY CALLS FOR $4 BILLION INVESTMENT

FL311215 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0108 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Mexico City, 30 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- The national iron and steel industry reported today that it needs a $4-billion investment on order to increase the installed capacity of that industry (?by) 1.5 million tons. Current production is 9.5 million tons of steel.

Pedro Luis Lopez, president of the national chamber of that industrial branch, estimated that the 1982 production of 7 million tons will be surpassed this year in order to meet domestic demand, which has diminished (as received). In 1982, production was 600,000 tons lower than in 1981. In the first 2 months of 1983, the country's production of raw steel totaled 1.1 million tons, which is 142,000 tons less than the production of the same period in 1982.

He said that investments in the iron and steel sector cannot be postponed, because there is a deadly and disastrous danger of decapitalization in that industry, which would force the country to import 5 million tons of finished steel products in the next 5 or 6 years, thus increasing Mexico's industrial dependency.

Luis Lopez reported that the country imported 1.25 million tons of finished steel products in 1982, mainly for the motor industry, and that 350,000 tons of steel were exported. This export, together with the recent adjustment in steel prices, will ensure the industry's profitability and prevent any need for subsidizing it.

COOPERATION AGREEMENTS WITH GUATEMALA EXPANDED

FL311100 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0524 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Mexico City, 30 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico and Guatemala will expand their scientific and technical cooperation agreements in the area of agriculture and forestry, the two countries announced today. Horacio Garcia Aguilar, Mexico's secretary of agriculture and water works, and Leopoldo Sandoval Villeda, Guatemala's minister of agriculture, livestock and foodstuffs [names and titles as received], said expansion of the agreement was both useful and positive. The Guatemalan minister visited his Mexican counterpart to sign the agreements between the two countries, particularly those covering animal health and vegetable certification. They said they would combine their efforts in fighting foot-and-mouth disease and African swine fever among others. The two officials will meet again at the end of April to complete agreements programmed for that month.

UK AMBASSADOR VISITS GRAND COMMISSION HEAD

FL310225 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0111 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Mexico City, 30 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- British Ambassador to Mexico Crispin Tickell stated today that Mexico and Great Britain have many common interests within the complex international situation and that this permits a closer relationship between their policies.

During a visit to Humberto Lugo Gil, president of the Grand Commission of the Chamber of Deputies, Tickell said that the two nations are united by their strong stand in the face of the OPEC policy.

In turn, Humberto Lugo Gil expressed the interest of the Mexican Government in strengthening the links with Great Britain in all fields. He also spoke of the importance that Queen Elizabeth's recent visit (last February) to Mexico has for the relations between Mexico and Great Britain.

RELATIONS ESTABLISHED WITH GUINEA-BISSAU

FL232120 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2054 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 23 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico today established ambassador-level relations with the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, the Foreign Secretariat announced. Counting Guinea-Bissau, Mexico now maintains diplomatic relations with 142 countries around the world, the secretariat added.

COLUMNIST ON REAGAN SPEECH, PAREDES STATEMENT

PA291553 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 25 Mar 83 p 12-A

["Let the People Judge" column by Ricardo Lince: "War on All Fronts"]

[Excerpts] Reagan has shown the U.S. news media aerial photographs that shows the existence of nuclear missile launch pads that Russia has pointing at the United States from Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada. Reagan denounced this situation. With his photographs, he established the terms of a nuclear war and anticipated the need to have military positions in the Caribbean area to defend his country. Whoever takes a look at a map of the region will notice how Panama sticks out, because of its geographic situation, as the territory most suitable for placing U.S. military defenses against an atomic attack on the United States. The bases in Panama would immediately involve us in any conflict.

Only a few hours before Reagan's meeting with the newsmen, General Ruben Dario Paredes met with thousands of young Panamanians in Coclecito. In that hilly area loaded with nationalistic sentiments, Paredes told the young people that, in line with the treaties, Fort Gulick would soon be returned to Panama; that a request had been made for a time extension, but that Panama would definitely not allow the existence of that base. This made the people think: No military base that could result in the annihilation of our people will be permitted in Darien, Chiriqui or any other place of the fatherland.

The request concerning the base, made to Paredes, a military man considering a presidential candidacy, was loaded with danger and, speaking in polite terms, it was "made in U.S.A." It was like saying: You give me the bases and I will support you for the presidency with money, much money. But they did not consider the patriotism and the wisdom of Paredes, who saw the trick. That would have been compromising, because it would have been a shameful act of exchanging our territory for his political future. It would have damaged the prestige and the very life of the nation and, especially, of the National Guard, which has the duty of safeguarding the integrity of our territory. With this card in hand, Paredes has no alternative but to come forth to promote unity. His gesture in defense of national sovereignty has generated in the hearts of Panamanians a feeling that is like a promise that he will win. It also served to confirm how correct his position has been.

HAVANA ON GROUPS' CONDEMNATION OF U.S. POLICY

PA301619 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] During a meeting with Panamanian Foreign Minister Juan Jose Amado, representatives of more than 30 Panamanian popular organizations criticized the U.S. policy on Central America. In the document delivered to the Panamanian foreign minister, the organizations condemned the aggression against the fraternal peoples of El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala. The organizations denounced the passage of nuclear submarines through Panamanian territorial waters in flagrant violation of the Tlaltelolco Treaty which bans the existence of such war materiel in the continent.

The delegation, which included national poet Rogelio Sinan and newsman Moises Torrijos, described as worrisome the functions of the School of the Americas that the United States operates in the canal area.

SPAIN'S FELIPE GONZALEZ TO VISIT IN JUNE

PA310522 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] It has been reported in Madrid that Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez will visit Colombia, Venezuela and Panama during a 5-day official tour he will make in late May, and early June. The Spanish Foreign Ministry communique stated that Felipe Gonzalez will arrive in Panama on 3 June, after visiting the cities of Bogota and Caracas.

The Spanish Government has expressed its wish to mediate in the Central American conflict, if its mediation is requested, but a spokesman for the Spanish Foreign Ministry said that Gonzalez' tour is not related to any peace initiative for the region.

'INDOCTRINATION' OF INDIANS BEING INVESTIGATED

PA290020 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 27 Mar 83 p 8-D

[Text] A source close to the Government and Justice Ministry told LA PRENSA that U.S. religious sects with leftist inclinations are working to indoctrinate the Indian communities in Darien and Veraguas and that there are many Kuna Indians traveling to Nicaragua and Cuba every month to receive training.

Following charges made by Corregimiento representatives, and the incident experienced by Government Minister Justo Fidel Palacios, the Government and Justice Ministry began investigating the extent of possible intervention by foreigners with the intention of indoctrinating the local Indians and peasants to later urge them to rebel against the constitutionally established order.

Our source mentioned that a large number of religious persons are carrying out continuous indoctrination of the Choco and Guaymi Indian communities in Darien and Veraguas, instilling foreign ideas, from operation centers spread throughout the communities, to later urge the people to rebel against the authorities.

The source specifically mentioned two incidents that occurred recently. In Darien, the Choco Indians attacked several persons who were working in the area, took several hostages and later rebelled when the National Guard asked them to abandon their aggressive positions. In the Guaymi region in Veraguas Province, Minister Palacios was attacked during a tour of the area.

Meanwhile, it was learned that many Kuna Indians from the San Blas region are travelling to Nicaragua and Cuba every month, where they are trained in insurgent tactics and indoctrinated with ideas that differ from our reality. When they return to our country, they spread these ideas among the residents of the region. This makes us think that there is truth in the recent charge made by Omayra Correa, Bella Vista Corregimiento representative, when she said that the Cuban and Nicaraguan ambassadors were visiting the San Blas region quite frequently and that it was strange that these visits should increase during the election of a new intendent for the region.

COSTA RICA

VOLIO SAYS NICARAGUA/USSR MIGHT BUILD CANAL

PA302221 San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 25 Mar 83 p 2

[By Jose J. Loria]

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Fernando Volio Jimenez yesterday disclosed the possibility that Nicaragua is thinking of building an interoceanic canal in the San Juan River with Soviet aid. This would virtually leave without effect the Canas-Jerez treaty.

Volio made the statement to the nine former foreign ministers who met yesterday with him and President Luis Alberto Monge in the presidential house.

According to Foreign Minister Volio, the plans for the construction of the interoceanic canal by the Soviets in southern Nicaragua are the main reason for the disputes and incidents that have been occurring between the governments of Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Volio Jimenez made a direct charge about already established Nicaraguan plans to some of the former foreign ministers attending yesterday's meeting.

LA PRENSA LIBRE consulted the Soviet Embassy in San Jose this morning regarding Foreign Minister Volio's charge. A Soviet Embassy spokesman said that they did not have any information in San Jose about the Nicaraguan plans to build a canal.

In yesterday's historic meeting at the presidential house, it was decided that a meeting among the foreign, government and polic security ministers of the two countries should be set up for 4 April in San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua.

Monge yesterday rejected the proposal that he personally meet with the highest-ranking Nicaraguan authorities, but he supported the initiative on the ministers' meeting. The position of establishing a direct, frank and peaceful dialogue with the Nicaraguans to solve the conflicts was supported in the meeting of former foreign ministers.

The conclusion of the meeting was that if dialogue is not successful within a prudent but brief period of time, the Costa Rican Government will resort to the international organizations to defend its rights.

A press communique issued by the Foreign Ministry last night indicated that the former foreign ministers who attended the meeting with President Monge to exchange viewpoints on the relations with Nicaragua showed their patriotism and great sense of responsibility "by expressing to President Monge their unanimous and unlimited support for the policy he has carried out to defend the country's high interests in the face of the Nicaraguan Government's violations of Costa Rica's right to free navigation on the San Juan River, and other hostile actions against our sovereignty."

DEPUTY REPORTS ARMS CACHE SEIZED NEAR PANAMA

PA310224 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] A communist deputy yesterday charged that weapons had been seized in a town near the Panamanian border. The Government Ministry said it was unaware of Deputy Ferreto's charge, but that it would undertake an investigation. The authorities said that no trucks with weapons had been seized. The officials are aware of a farm with weapons in a town on the border with Panama. The authorities also said that the charge could ruin an investigation. There are also farmers who are armed to prevent the theft of lumber in the area of Coto Brus.

The Popular Vanguard Party [PVP] deputy charged that three trucks filled with weapons were seized yesterday in Coto Brus. The three vehicles were coming from Panama and were going to the (Alturas de Coton) farm. The farm workers immediately called the rural guard authorities to report this. The deputy said he did not know the names of the owners or the destination of the weapons.

Deputy Government Minister Enrique Chacon said he had no knowledge of the charges by Deputy Ferreto, but that he would order an investigation. He said that it is possible that this might deal with a farm owned by a man named (Mora) who has armed men to prevent the theft of lumber. He reiterated that there might be some confusion, since peasants many times see things differently. In any case, he said he will try to delve further into the matter.

The authorities are worried that Deputy Ferreto's charge could ruin an investigation. The local office of the rural guard said that it was unaware of the PVP deputy's report. In any case, the charge could ruin a number of investigations in the area. However, it did not give details on the investigation. Capt (Lucas Astorga), commander of the local office, said he did not know why Deputy Ferreto raised the charge if the rural guard had not carried out any operation yesterday morning.

The latest reports indicate that a lumber truck was detained in (Coton) because its driver and the vehicle did not have documents, Captain (Campos) of the rural guard said. He added that the truck only contained lumber. He did not give further details, because the case is being investigated. He said that according to the report that led to the detention, the lumber shipment was going to be exchanged for weapons in Panama, but the contacts for the possible exchange are unknown.

EL SALVADOR

AIR FORCE BOMBS GUERRILLA CAMPS IN SAN VICENTE

PA310433 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 29 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] Salvadoran Air Force units today bombed the camps of guerrillas who attacked and took over the town of San Esteban Catarina, San Vincente Department. Military sources reported that Cerro San Pedro, Amatitan Arriba, Amatitan Abajo, Los Ayalita, and some ravines of the Machacal River were bombed.

The bombings started yesterday afternoon when armed forces members discovered the location of subversive camps after the guerrillas left the town of San Estaban Catarina. The guerrillas completely destroyed and set fire to the local command post, municipal offices and the house of Mrs Gladys Garcia.

It was also reported that the guerrillas occupied the offices of the National Telecommunications system. It was further reported that the guerrillas seized the weapons of the local civilian defense group and ransacked the Antel offices.

The places bombed by the air force are located 7 miles east of San Lorenzo and 7 miles north of San Esteban Catarina.

It was also reported today that near the area known as Cruz de Camino -- located between San Esteban Catarina and San Lorenzo, where a pickup was machinegunned last Sunday -- a group of 30 rebels kidnapped 2 soldiers who were members of the San Lorenzo military base. Soldiers Efrain Platero Prieto and Ruben Rodriguez Flores are natives of Guadalupe and were dressed as civilians because they were on leave to visit their relatives. Guerrillas coming from the same community recognized them as soldiers and kidnapped them.

ARMY SAYS VENCEREMOS EXAGGERATED BATTLE REPORT

PA010238 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1939 GMT 31 Mar 83

[All figures as received]

[Text] San Salvador, 31 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The army today termed exaggerated the reports by clandestine Radio Venceremos on the death of 62 members of the Salvadoran Armed Forces during the guerrilla occupation of the village of San Isidro, Morazan Department. According to Venceremos, another 12 soldiers were killed and 48 more wounded during other armed clashes in Cerro el Coyal, near San Isidro.

Government military sources admitted that the rebels and the army clashed in Morazan Department, but not in the exaggerated way reported by the rebel station. Radio Venceremos reported that San Isidro was occupied yesterday, Wednesday, by FMLN forces, after fierce clashes with soldiers of the Ramon Belloso Battalion, specialized in counterinsurgency warfare, and members of the civil defense.

Radio Venceremos affirmed that the guerrillas had seized 70 rifles of various types and calibers, 8 artillery pieces and assorted ammunition. The Salvadoran guerrilla radio station did not give any information regarding casualties among the rebels.

NATIONAL SALVATION MOVEMENT ISSUES MANIFESTO

PA302303 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 28 Mar 83 pp 50, 51

[Paid advertisement by the "MS-28 National Salvation Movement" entitled "Counter-declaration"; dated 28 March]

[Text] On 15 October 1979, a group of officers from the Salvadoran Armed Forces -- who called themselves the Armed Forces Permanent Committee, Copefa, or the progressive military youth -- rebelled and ousted the weak government of General Carlos Humberto Romero, who had been elected in 1977.

Seeing the changes being made in the government and the armed forces, many Salvadorans rejoiced, thinking that peace and security would again prevail in our nation -- which had been martyred so much by the hordes of the people's revolutionary bloc, and blackmailed by the socializing regime of "Jimmy" Carter.

Unfortunately, our joy was short-lived because we soon became aware of the destructive slogans adopted by those who had overthrown the government, and learned of the revolutionary groups they appointed to assume illegally the powers of state.

The 15 October proclamation issued in an attempt to justify the coup d'etat was presented to the Salvadorans as a product of the conscience of the Salvadoran's authentic armed forces. In truth, it only reflected the beliefs of a minority that had been seduced by the false humanism of a socialist revolution.

It is well known that some of the officers who participated in the 1979 coup d'etat have joined the ranks of the FMLN and its political facade, the FDR. Nevertheless, not enough publicity has been given to the real authors of the spurious proclamation. They were not members of the Salvadoran armed corps, and some of them were not even Salvadoran citizens. The leftist pseudo-intellectuals Ignacio Ellacuria, Luis de Sebastian, Ignacio Marquin-Baro, Segundo Montes and other foreign agents provocateurs who are Catholic priests of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) were the creators of that aberration. Their real mission is to conspire against free systems in order to impose by force a socialist regime.

The covert actions by Ellacuria and company -- who have poisoned the minds of thousands of Salvadoran youths, including some officers of the armed forces, who have passed through the classrooms of the Central American University, UCA -- were complemented by the infiltration of the revolutionary junta by their partners Guillermo Ungo, Roman Mayorga Quiros, Ruben Zamora Rivas, Hector Dada Hirezi and other socialist agents who formerly were professors at the UCA. These traitors abandoned the junta later on, during January 1980, because they resented the armed forces' superiority, and they joined the ranks of the criminal FMLN-FDR.

The Salvadorans' desire for peace and security were obviously frustrated. As we all know, violence and destruction intensifeid. The revolutionary groups, with their destructive decrees and their false legality, which violated human rights, kept themselves in power with impunity until 28 March 1982. On that date, honest Salvadorans contributed their efforts to reverse the destructive process.

But, as is known, the destruction continues openly and covertly, and it has worsened with time.

Today we celebrate the first anniversary of one of the most important events in El Salvador's contemporary history.

One year ago today, the true Salvadoran people rose up and voted to repudiate the imposition of socialism, whether by the institutional path or by violence. It was made clear that most Salvadorans did not want either the allegedly modified socialism, or violent socialism.

We prevailed, but the great civic insurrection of 1983 against socialism was distorted by foreign agents, by the usual traitors and by a small group that does not represent the true Salvadoran Armed Forces. The popular will that they had been unable to subjugate during the electoral campaign with the usual deceptions, blackmails and humiliations had to be betrayed on 21 April 1982, only 24 days after the national plebiscite. Those upon whom we had deposited our indignation yielded in the face of forces foreign to our homeland.

One year after we cast our popular mandate in favor of freedom, order and justice, it has not been fulfilled by our representatives. The spurious proclamation continues to be invoked to maintain the destructive regime, and the desired peace has not been achieved. Even though it is said that the constitutional regime has been reestablished, we know that the concepts expressed in the subversive proclamation continue to be obeyed. Those concepts do not respond to true human rights.

The MS-28 National Salvation Movement [Movimiento de Salvacion Nacional MS-29] reminds good Salvadorans that the subversive 15 October 1979 proclamation does not represent the feelings of the great majority of citizens who make up our armed forces. The armed forces are not solely made up of generals, chiefs and officers. The armed forces are an integral part of the Salvadoran nation, which on many occasions has shown its rejection of revolution, especially in the civic insurrection on 28 March. That is where our movement gets its name.

Now we are again being summoned to the polls by the unbelieving North Amerians and their local socialist servants who refuse to give up until they manage to impose their despotic power.

Once again, we must accept the summons, going to the polls with sincere hearts, determined to defeat, once and for all, the socialist enemy who has been attacking us upenly and covertly for the past several decades.

Above all, the MS-28 National Salvation Movement, which is a civic, nonpartisan, counterrevolutionary and eminently humanistic organization, proposes the following principles that could serve as guidelines for honest Salvadorans who are determined to save their country from socialist aggression.

A. It is acknowledged that the inalienable rights of man prevail over material rights.

B. The inalienable rights of man are not subject to ratification or amendment by man or by his governments.

C. The existence of those rights should not be subject to the will of majorities, minorities or their representatives.

D. The only inalienable rights of man are those powers of action that can be simultaneously exercised by all the members of society without diminishing the rights of any member in particular.

E. Those inalienable rights are; the right to life, to freedom, to justice, to property and to the pursuit of happiness.

If we respect these universal maxims, remaining close to God and nature while demanding that our elected or appointed representatives do the same, we will be taking a great step toward the salvation of El Salvador. We will obtain peace by defending our traditional juridical status quo.

[Signed] MS-28 National Salvation Movement; Fernando Alberto Jose Avila Quetglas, Orlando de Sola Wright, Carlos Funes Hartmann, Rafael Antonio Carvallo Arevalo, Mario E. Redaelli, Sr.

RADIO VENCEREMOS REPORTS ON FMLN ACTIVITIES

D'Aubuisson Called 'Political Failure'

PA290450 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] Convinced that his image abroad is that of a criminal, Maj Roberto d'Aubuisson has announced that he will not be a presidential candidate. Such a decision, made a year after the 28 March electoral farce, is the best proof that the alleged votes that led D'Aubuisson to the state's leading government institution did not reflect the Salvadoran people's free will.

A criminal like D'Aubuisson will never have the confidence of people who have personally suffered the terror implanted by the death squads.

The new December electoral farce is part of the imperialist plan to restore the critical situation confronted by the Salvadoran Army; to solve differences between the pro-oligarchic parties, and at the same time to improve the dictatorship's image at international levels.

For the accomplishment of this plan conceived by the Reagan administration, D'Aubuisson's portrayal is totally unacceptable for the new image they wish to project. This is why imperialism now turns its back on the chief of the death squads. D'Aubuisson has totally failed as a politician. D'Aubuisson has totally failed as the leader who would supposedly group rightists in an oligarchic plan to continue usurping power with impunity

However, D'Aubuisson turned out to be a complete failure, a stain, a puppet with too much filth and blood to sustain the comedy of democratization. The truth is that a born loser will always remain such. D'Aubuisson has had to give up his ambitions to achieve power. The people unmasked him to the world as the murderer of Monsignor Romero and the killer of hundreds of Salvadorans. D'Aubuisson will have to go back full time to his leadership of the death squads.

In conclusion, Roberto d'Aubuisson's political failure, the defeat of his ambitions, are nothing more than a confirmation that the high position he now usurps was achieved through the shameless electoral farce of 28 March.

Clash at Las Marias

PA302352 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] The Anastasio Aquino Paracentral Front has sent us the following information concerning the victorious FMLN actions in Zacatecoluca:

Vanguard units and guerrilla columns on 24-25 March carried out an operation of search and annihilation at the Las Marias post, which is part of the Armed Forces Engineers' Instruction Center located southeast of Zacatecoluca, on the coastal highway leading toward the town of (San Jose de la Montana).

The operation started at 2315 on 24 March, and by 0300 on 25 March we had overpowered the enemy post. The enemy sent reinforcements, but they were ambushed near (Santa Cruz los Rios) and the cotton cooperative located on the coastal highway, causing them a still undetermined number of casualties.

The results of this action were as follows: We recovered 10 M-16 rifles, 1 M-60 machinegun, 1 M-79 grenade launcher, 1 military communications radio and a large amount of war supplies. The enemy's casualties were as follows: five dead, including a second lieutenant with the surname of (Escobar), and five wounded. We also took three prisoners of war.

During the ambush we inflicted about 10 casualties on the enemy, and we destroyed a military truck. The enemy's death toll was 20 [as heard] men. On our side, we regret the death of five companeros.

The companeros of the Anastasio Aquino Paracentral Front report that with this action they remain in solidarity with the FMLN forces in Chalatenango and Morazan. Revolution or death, we will win. Commander (Milton), who sent us this war report from the Anastasio Aguino Paracentral Front, led the operation.

Clashes in San Vicente

PA310141 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Military dispatches report that FMLN forces in the (Luis Adalberto Dias) detachment have attacked enemy positions in San Esteban Catarina, San Vicente Department. The operation of isolating, harassing and attacking these positions started on 27 March at 1700. The enemy air force participated in this action with two Arava airplanes. They bombed Cerro San Esteban in an attempt to create havoc at our command post.

We captured 12 enemy soldiers at 2320, and recovered 2 G-3 rifles. The enemy later abandoned two positions and left behind two G-3 rifles and one Czechoslovak rifle. The forces of the dictatorship fled from their positions dressed as civilians, after hiding their rifles, ammunition and uniforms.

On 28 March at 0230, the (Luis Adalberto Dias) detachment had total control of San Esteban Catarina. They then combed the area for more hidden weapons. This operation was carried out in homage to our martyred Archbishop Monsignor Oscar Arnulfo Romero, who was assassinated on 24 March 1980.

We likewise remember that Father (Alirio Napoleon Macias) was also assassinated by forces of the dictatorship, in San Esteban Catarina on 4 August 1979. San Esteban Catarina is only 6 km from San Vicente, headquarters of the puppet army's 5th Infantry Brigade.

During the takeover of San Esteban Catarina, our revolutionary army recovered 10 G-3 rifles and 4 Czechoslovak rifles, a total of 14 weapons. We also recovered a large amount of ammunition of various caliber, and several handgrenades and riflegrenades.

Our forces took eight prisoners of war, who have already been released. The enemy's casualty toll was 4 dead and 3 wounded. On our side we regret the heroic death of Companera (Ana Rubidia Constanza), known as Companera (Nubia). Companeros (Alexander) and (Ernesto Flores) were in charge of the execution of this operation. Commander (Miguel Mendoza) led the operation.

Belloso Battalion Casualties Claimed

PA310506 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0405 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Here is Commander Ana Sonia Medina, alias Commander Mariana, member of the Francisco Sanchez Northeastern Front's general command, who will reveal details about a great new victory of our revolutionary army over the Ramon Belloso Battalion: [Begin recording] The FMLN reports that today at 0600 Commander (Francisco Martinez), alias Commander (Gonzalo), of the Commander Rafael Antonio Arce Zablah Brigade started an attack against enemy positions in the town of San Isidro, Morazan Department. By [0700, our forces had annihilated the enemy and taken over the town. At 1000, a company from the Ramon Belloso Battalion, comprised of special troops of the dictatorship, advanced in an attempt to retake the town.

The advance was made from the town of Osicala toward San Simon, and from there to San Isidro. At 1030, near San Isidro's outskirts, our forces maneuvered and took up dominant positions to surround the members of the company from the Ramon Belloso Battalion, annihilating most of the company.

At 1500, another company of the Ramon Belloso Battalion was sent as reinforcements in an attempt to save the surrounded company. It clashed with another FMLN unit near the town of San Simon. By 1700, the members of our Commander (Gonzalo) Battalion had decided the fate of the surrounded company.

At 1715, a battery of 81-mm mortars from our support battalion attacked positions of the Ramon Belloso Battalion located in Cerro el Coyol, northeast of Osicala. The rounds landed on target and caused losses among the enemy, forcing them to abandon their positions.

As of 2040, the partial results of the clash are as follows: Weapons captured from the Ramon Belloso Battalion -- 51 M-16 rifles, 3 M-79 grenade launchers, 2 60-mm mortars, 3 M-60 machineguns, 6 PRC-77 radios; weapons captured from the paramilitary units in San Isidro -- 19 rifles, mostly G-3 rifles. This makes a total of 70 captured rifles and 8 support weapons. We also recovered a large amount of ammunition and war supplies.

The enemy losses are as follows: A total of 45 dead soldiers were left in the area under our control. They were members of the 1st Company and the reconnaissance unit of the Ramon Belloso Battalion. Likewise, 17 paramilitary members were killed in the town of San Isidro. The enemy forces who managed to escape from the encirclement took with them 10 corpses and more than 40 wounded soldiers.

In Cerro el Coyol, the Ramon Belloso Battalion had 10 casualties -- 2 dead and 8 wounded. The total number of casualties for the Ramon Belloso Battalion was 67 dead and over 46 wounded. The death toll includes a sergeant, a lieutenant and a corporal. In addition, two lieutenants were wounded.

If we add these figures to the casualties of the paramilitary unit and other soldiers, we have a total of 84 dead. The units of the Commander (Gonzalo) Battalion were headed by Commander (Raul), as general commander, and by Commanders (Tong), (Bracamonte) and (Hernan).

This battle was waged in commemoration of the death anniversary of Commander (Francisco Martinez), alias Commander (Gonzalo), hero of Usulutan. It has a strategic character because it was a decisive blow to one of the dictatorship army's main points of moral and military support. The Ramon Belloso Battalion is the army's main specialized unit. It has been trained in the United States and is considered by the dictatorship as its most prepared and efficient force.

This blow is only the prelude to the total collapse of the dictatorship's army, which is now being directly led by U.S. imperialism. [end recording]

RADIO GUAZAPA REPORTS ON FMLN ACTIVITIES

Modesto Ramirez Front

PA290350 (Clandestine) Radio Guazapa in Spanish to El Salvador 0130 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] The following are the most recent reports on FMLN military activities carried out in the past few hours by the Modesto Ramirez Central Front.

Military operations in Tenancingo: on 27 March at 0200, the Cuscatlan front FMLN guerrilla forces carried out an attack on an enemy position and recovered weapons. The enemy position is located on the (Neuco) detour, on the road that goes from Tenancingo to Cojutepeque. The enemy position located in El Llano canton in El Cerrito was also attacked. The following war material was recovered: 5 rifles, 2 G-3 and 3 Czech; 6 G-3 clips, 1,000 rounds of 7.62-mm and 7-mm ammunition. The enemy suffered four casualties. Our forces retreated in order and without problems. This operation was led by Campanero (Omar Doqueo).

On 25 and 26 March, more clashes were reported with elite government troops stationed in Palo Grande and Calle Nueva. The enemy suffered two dead and three wounded. This was a typical guerrilla fight. We suffered no casualties.

We have also been informed that within the emulation plans promoted by the Medesto Ramirez Central Front in the Guazapa zone, column No 6 from Cuscatlan was named after (Salvador Berosh). (Salvador) is a peasant leader that the military dictatorship and Alvaro Magana's regime caused to disappear the day Saul Villalta, a leader of the Revolutionary Democratic Front and (America Perdomo), Salvadoran human rights committee representative, were kidnapped.

United to fight until final victory, revolution or death, we will win. [Signed] Commander Misael Gallardo.

Guazapa Front Commended

PA290425 (Clandestone) Radio Guazapa in Spanish to El Salvador 0130 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] of letter from Commander (Eduardo) Solorzano]

[Text] Companero Commander (Chano Guevara), member of the Francisco Sanchez Eastern Front command; Companeros political and military chiefs: FMLN combatants; companeros:

Revolutionary greetings: On Sunday, 27 March, we learned through Radio Guazapa, the voice of Cuscatlan, and through a communique issued by you, that on Saturday, 26 March, you carried out a military operation in El Divisadero that, in our judgment, deserves recognition. It was a daring and courageous operation that was included in the FMLN's overall plans for this year.

The political and military activities you are carrying out strategically contribute to the advance of the war and, in particular, are an important part of the political guidelines in a strategy of victory that, with much revolutionary wisdom, was drafted by our organization's Central Committee in recent months. This also reflects your revolutionary awareness and trust in the people's triumph. We are experiencing a qualitatively superior moment in this revolutionary war. These tasks can only be fulfilled properly when one is convinced that there is a need to strengthen the party, the army and the masses.

May these words be an encouragement for you to continue the struggle of our people, to advance in victory down the final path, and to emulate and redouble the effort of each and every combatant in our beloved FMLN. United to fight until final victory! Revolution or death, we will win! [Signed] for the Unified Revolutionary Directorate, commander (Eduardo) Solorzano [Dated] Guazapa, 28 March 1983

U.S. Plans, Activities

PA300230 (Clandestine) Radio Guazapa in Spanish to El Salvador 0130 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] The U.S. Government is preparing to create a counterinsurgency training center in Honduras, where 100 U.S. advisers will train 17,000 Salvadoran soldiers organized in 50 units of 350 soldiers each. The training of Salvadoran soldiers in Honduran territory is part of a U.S. military strategy that desperately seeks to strike at the guerrilla-controlled zones. The troops would also be used as local security forces.

The United States is preparing to bomb zones controlled by the FMLN. We report the preparations for U.S. intervention in the region, which includes using U.S. planes from the U.S. Southern Command, with headquarters in Panama. These attacks will take place in zones controlled by guerrillas. We had previously reported that spy planes from the Panama Canal zone have flown over the zones controlled by the people with the objective of detecting our positions and programming bombing missions.

FMLN intelligence sources have discovered plans for heavy bombing of the zones of (San Agustin Tres Calles) in Usulutan Department, Cerro San Pedro, Cerro San Vicente, Guazapa and Chalatenango.

GUATEMALA

PLANS FOR REGIONAL FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING

PA310414 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Three Central American countries have asked the OAS Permanent Council for an urgent meeting of the isthmus foreign ministers. The request was made for the purpose of finding a solution to the serious threat of war between Honduras and Nicaragua.

Foreign Minister Eduardo Castillo Arriola said today that Guatemala would attend the meeting, but that it would also demand as its only -- but necessary -- condition the participation of all Central American countries, without the intervention of countries outside the isthmus.

[Begin Castillo Arriola recording] Complementary to this action, there was also a meeting today at the OAS Permanent Council at which several Central American foreign ministers analyzed the situation from their point of view. I think that three Central American countries have asked the president of the Oas Permanent Council to invite Central American countries to a foreign ministers meeting.

When Ambassador Francisco Galvez reported on the results of this session, he was instructed to send a note to the president of the council stating that the Guatemalan Government is willing to participate immediately in this foreign ministers meeting if all ministers agree to attend. Guatemala will attend the meeting only if all five countries are present; if any one of the countries is not present, Guatemala will not participate. Neither will we accept interference from any Latin American country outside the isthmus, regardless of how friendly or big it may be. We think that this should be a dialogue among Central American countries; therefore, we have also reiterated to the president of the OAS Permanent Council, in a note sent by Ambassador Francisco Galvez, that Guatemala has offered to be the site of this meeting if the five countries agree to hold the conference. [end recording]

Nicaraguan Ambassador to Guatemala Orlando Rojas Morales said today that the Nicaraguan Government welcomes the offer made by the Guatemalan Government to be the main mediator in the current military confrontation between Honduras and Nicaragua.

[Begin recording] [Rojas Morales] The peaceful solution of any conflict between Nicaragua and its neighbor countries would be our goal, since our government's basic principle has always been the promotion of peace.

[Question] Would your government accept the participation of other countries in order to find a solution [word indistinct]?

[Answer] This is a matter that must be solved by our Foreign Ministry. However, in general terms, we have repeatedly said that anything leading to equilibirum in the relations among Central American countries -- concretely to a permanent peace solution -- would have the support of Nicaragua. Nicaragua would support it and promote it as its own. [end recording]

Ambassador Rojas Morales added that both in principle and in fact, war is not desirable. However, he asserted that the situation between Nicaragua and Honduras is very serious. [Begin recording] [Rojas Morales -- in progress]...for several days, and we think the situation between the two countries is serious.

[Question] Do you think it will lead to war between the two countries?

[Answer] Based on my beliefs and principles, I do not think we should reach the point of war. I have always advodated peace, and this should always be our goal.

[Question] The Guatemalan ambassador in Honduras made a statement for the radio this morning that Honduras is expecting an invasion from Nicaragua.

[Answer] This was only a statement made by the person you have just mentioned, and nothing else. [end recording]

NICARAGUA

MINISTER SAYS CALM REESTABLISHED IN ZELAYA

PA301938 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Guerrilla Commander William Ramirez, Atlantic coast minister, has said that tranquillity has been reestablished in the northern Zelaya region after the combatants of the Sandinist Peoples Army repelled and thwarted the aggressive plans of the counterrevolutionary units.

In remarks to the AGENCIA NUEVA NICARAGUA, the Sandinist leader said that the Miskito population has rejected and condemned the attitude of the bands of former Somozist guardsmen who attack defenseless communities. He stressed that the Miskito settlements have been supplied with drinking water, electric power, schools, and the last 300 houses that will be distributed among the Miskito families.

We have been able to maintain territorial sovereignty and national unity and to reject the attacks of the Somozists at the same time that the Sandinist peoples revolution advances, benefitting the population that in the past had been abandoned, Commander Ramirez said.

D'ESCOTO TO ATTEND GROUP OF 77 MEETING

PA301918 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto Brockman will head the official Nicaraguan delegation that will attend the meeting of the Group of 77 at the ministerial and technical level. The meeting began in Buenos Aires, Argentina, yesterday and will end on 9 April.

The meeting is being held prior to the Sixth UNCTAD. The Nicaraguan delegation also includes Edmundo Jarquin, International Reconstruction Fund minister; (Aldo Diaz Lacayo), general director of foreign policy for bilateral affairs; Orlando Solorzano Delgadillo, general director of export promotion of the Foreign Trade Ministry; Rita Delia Casco, ambassador to Argentina; and (Juan Jose Amaya), technical adviser to the government delegation.

HUMBERTO ORTEGA, D'ESCOTO HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE

PA312205 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1830 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Press conference with Nicaraguan Defense Minister Commander Humberto Ortega Saavedra and Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto Brockman at the Foreign Ministry in Managua -- live]

[Text] [Ortega] Our revolutionary government and our National Directorate once again wish to denounce to the world the escalation of the invasion-type military aggression that the current Reagan administration is implementing through the armed Somozist counter-revolutionary genocidal elements who have support in Honduras, and is fostering against our people and our revolution.

Today we will discuss the most important aspects, which show how the escalation is growing daily to increasingly more dangerous levels that threaten a large military confrontation in the region.

On this Nicaragua map we can observe in the Atlantic area of our country -- what we know as northern Zelaya -- blue arrows and blue circles indicating the movement of the armed Somozist counterrevolutionaries from Honduras, which U.S. imperialism has promoted in the last 3 days.

As we previously indicated, in addition to the penetration of the Somozist forces from Honduras in the area of Quilali and Wiwili, we learned that other combat fronts were being prepared in Honduras. In the last 3 days we have been witnessing this situation. Our troops clashed yesterday with invading forces that tried to enter the area of [words indistinct], the area of (Dumona) and other points in northern Zelaya, where our forces managed to repel these attempts to penetrate our country. A part of the force that tried to enter through that area has returned to Honduras. Another part of that force is still a little bit deeper inside the country, in (?the area circled in blue) and in Santa Clara, in the area indicated there by the captain.

For our government, the situation in the area of northern Zelaya is very serious, as the escalated invasion develops further each day.

It is important to note that since these forces were unable to enter the country as they wanted, in organized fashion and in large numbers, fighting has recently been taking place in the border area. As usual, there is the risk of clashes with the Honduran Army's military units. We have been able to confirm that in certain cases the Honduran military units' activities are coordinated with the activities carried out by these counterrevolutionary forces coming in from Honduras.

The other aspect, which makes the escalation of this invasion-type military aggression stand out, is the current situation in the sector of Jalapa-Teotecacinte.

In that area, [words indistinct] in Honduran territory there is a significant number of counterrevolutionaries who have lately initiated actions, attacking from Honduras or carrying out quick raids into towns and against border posts of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] in that sector. Another aspect of their efforts to continue this escalation of infiltrations can be seen in the border area of Chinandega and Madriz Departments. [Words indistinct] where a series of clashes have lately taken place with counterrevolutionary forces that tried to infiltrate Nicaragua through that sector. They have been repelled, mainly in the sector of San Jose de Cusmapa, even through they have had open coordiation and support from military units of the Honduran Army.

These three elements -- especially the one in northern Zelaya -- show us how imperialism's military escalation is being organized. We must point out that the forces that entered through the sector of Quilali, Wiwili and the mountains of Matagalpa during the month of February faced the quick and overwhelming reaction of our army. Those forces are mostly on the defensive, beaten, pursued and unable to adopt a firm stand in order to carry out their military missions.

Therefore, the actions being carried out these days are in the nature of support for the forces that penetrated during February and are now in serious trouble due to our army's maneuvers.

In our first statements we pointed out that during February and March six task forces had penetrated. We are aware that these counterrevolutionary task forces are made up of about 200-260 men. [Words indistinct] that entered on that occasion. Two of these six task forces are now practically destroyed. One of these task forces, including its leader, has again left toward Honduras. Another was annihilated during combat and had to take to the hill,s toward the Honduran border region.

These task forces have practically lost their capability to fight as leading military groups. Our army also dealt a decisive blow to a group in one of the other forces, and it has been reduced to small, scattered groups; it can no longer function as a major unit.

All this means that for the time being the task forces that infiltrated our country have been reduced to two; one is called (El Suicida) and the other is called (Bravo Benitez). They are now in the area of Quilali, located in the southern zone being pointed out by the captain. These forces are still near the border, even though we have dealt them many blows. We have divided them and reduced them to small groups that cannot hold their positions like major groups.

Yesterday we found in that area a common grave of counterrevolutionaries. They always try to conceal their dead so that we can't ascertain the damage we have caused to their groups. We found a grave with dozens of corpses.

The other force located here in the mountains of Matagalpa is the one that attacked the settlement of Rancho Grande. Some newsmen there were able to see how the counterrevolutionaries take away their wounded and try to hide their dead. One of these dead counterrevolutionaries was found 3 hours later, and the newsmen even filmed this. This force is also being pursued, hounded by the EPS. We had some armed clashes yesterday in the mountains, where part of these forces are located.

This force has been practically reduced to attacks like the one in the area of Rancho Grande, and to harassing civilians. In general, they are on the defensive. We think that their actions are being supported from the Honduran border.

This new wave of invasions is mainly intended to provide aid, to give a breath of air to the force that penetrated and is now facing a serious situation -- some groups are even in a dangerous situation.

Bocay -- which is also here on the map -- is a mountain town near the Honduran border. In that sector, our revolutionary government last year instructed the armed forces to help with the evacuation of the civilian population in that mountain area, which has no roads. They were being negatively affected by the activities of the genocidal armed counterrevolutionaries coming from Honduras.

We proceeded with the evacuation of these people. It was during this evacuation that our people and the army suffered attacks from the counterrevolutionaries. We even had the case of the 75 children, who were victims of the counterrevolutionary situation in that zone. The armed forces built a landing strip there for the evacuation of these people. Once the people were evacuated, we left behind practically no forces in the area. Since the area is less than 1 km from the border, the counterrevolution acting from Honduras was keen to occupy it for logistical support activities by helicopter, to help the forces already infiltrated into our territory.

In view of this situation, the Sandinist Air Force carried out on Tuesday an attack against that landing strip. The northern sector of that landing strip was heavily damaged in order to obstruct the enemy's activities in that place. The air force's attack was combined with infantry operations against the enemy in that mountain area.

Between 23 and 31 March, we have counted a total of 27 civilians harmed by the armed counterrevolutionary activities of the groups who have penetrated and those acting from the border areas. There is the case of the French technician, which we all know about. There have also been wounded children and women. This includes the case of a companera who is the wife of an official and was kidnapped near the border by a group of Somozist gruards. During another clash we recovered a backpack of one of the counterrevolutionaries, and inside it we found a woman's ear with an earring, which apparently belonged to this companera.

So far, the action of the counterrevolutionaries has concentrated on civilian targets. However, in recent clashes between our forces and the forces that are trying to invade our country through northern Zelaya we have suffered dead and wounded. In these clashes in the northern part of the country, in northern Zelaya, we reported approximately 12 EPS members killed. The enemy has also had casualties. Because of the opertional and tactical situation there, we cannot give the exact number of casualties we have inflicted on the forces that are trying to invade our territory.

Regarding Honduras, I also wish to report that from January to this date the Honduran forces have carried out a series of attacks against our troops. What is so serious about this is the fact that the attacks, which at first were carried out with rifles, have been continued with mortars, light artillery and high-caliber machineguns.

In recent days, on 27 March to be specific, not only were our observation posts and operational patrols harassed from Honduran territory, but groups of up to 15 men of the Honduran Army entered our territory in obviously provocative actions against our forces. Such was the case on 27 March in the area of the Guasaule River, when Honduran units attacked our observation post at El Espino. There was also the action carried out by some 15 Honduran soldiers who entered 40 meters into our territory to attack (?El Suspiro) observation post, also in that sector. We have also seen Honduran Army units firing at our forces from Honduran territory while Somozist forces crossed the border into our territory from some of their operational bases in that sector.

We want to report that these incidents confirm that instead of reducing their aggressive policy that is being promoted by imperialism, they are on the contrary increasing their armed invasion activities. Logically, from a military standpoint, the fact we were keeping the invading forces on the defensive led us to believe that the enemy would be receiving reinforcements from Honduras. In view of this, we made our military plans to face those reinforcements and, as I already reported, it is taking place as we thought.

The seriousness of this lies not so much in the Somozist forces trying to enter our country to support the forces that invaded our territory in February and that each day are having more difficulties and are facing total annihilation by our troops, but in the incidents taking place on the border with Honduras that could unleash a conflict, because there are reactionary forces of the CIA and of the Honduran Army interested in creating frictions that might lead to very dangerous situations such as military clashes along the border, especially when we have already seen that the Honduran forces are no longer attacking us from Honduras, but that they have already crossed the border into our territory.

As a sovereign country, with every right to defend our sovereignty, our territorial integrity, we cannot tolerate this. We must resolve these situations when forces show up in our territory.

Companero d'Escoto is also going to talk about this situation.

[announcer] The speaker will now be Foreign Minister Father Miguel d'Escoto Brockman.

[D'Escoto] Some months ago, a meeting was held here in the Foreign Ministry between Commander Ortega and some members of the U.S. Congress. I remember that on that occasion one of the U.S. congressmen asked Commander Daniel Ortega if we really thought that there was a possibility of an invasion orchestrated or directed by the United States against Nicaragua, in other words, a U.S. invasion of Nicaragua. I remember that the commander told him yes, because something that had happened in the past could happen again and that, moreover, there was enough evidence to prove that this was the intention and that the U.S. Government was preparing for this.

I remember that one of the congressmen replied that the commander was mistaken. He said at the time that the commander was mistaken, meaning that he had no reason to worry because the U.S. President, whatever he might wish to do, could not declare a war, because that is within the purview of the U.S. Congress, and the President could not do this on his own.

We thought and we said as much that this was an extremely naive, extremely simplistic and totally irrelevant observation, because the issue was not whether this invasion would take place within the context of a declared war; the issue was whether or not it could take place. We could not tell our people not to die from the bullets or the bombs, because the bullets and the bombs were being used within the context of an undeclared war.

We remembered that no war was declared when the U.S. Marines were pursuing the Nicaraguan patriots who were fighting alongside General Sandino in the mountains. There was no declared war, but this did not make it less of a war. Nor was a formal war declared against Vietnam, and that was a war, a very costly war with many deaths, a lot of blood and a great amount of destruction.

Now we are in this situation of invasion that the honorable congressman said could not take place because the President did not have this power. We are actually faced with an invasion. At this moment, the United States is waging a war against Nicaragua, and this is no less a war because of the fact that it was not officially declared.

We denounced this at the recently concluded UN Security Council meeting. The U.S. representative to the United Nations refused to comment on the charges. She launched a series of criticisms against the Nicaraguan Government and simply did not respond to the charges. Outside the United Nations, spokesmen for the State Department and the Pentagon have said on repeated occasions -- even President Reagan has said this -- that it is not their policy to comment on covert actions. This is the formula that they have found to avoid having to go through Congress to have a war, to be able to wage war. They changed the name. They call it covert action.

A few days ago, there was an article in the NEW YORK TIMES, of which I will quote only the introduction. The writer, Paul Landau, says: The U.S. Government is waging a war against Nicaragua and it has been doing this for over a year, although the U.S. Congress has not declared such a war.

The U.S. Constitution confers this power on the Congress -- that is, the power to declare war -- but someone has usurped it, and they have been able to do so by the simple act of describing this war as an intelligence activity. This someone, the writer continues, that is, the usurper of the power to declare war, is the CIA, commanded by President Reagan. The writer then proceeds to explain how Reagan has acted to bypass Congress and in fact wage a war against Nicaragua, a war that, as I was saying, is no less a war because the formality of declaring it officially has not been complied with.

In the magzine -- and I am referring to U.S. publications only; since I believe that most of the foreign newsmen here with us at this time are U.S. citizens; I am referring to U.S. publications that obviously cannot be said to be leftist or Sandinist media -- in the current issue of TIME magazine, dated 4 April, the latest issue of TIME magazine, there is the following statement, and the magazine attributes the information to the leaders of the FDN [Nicaraguan Democratic Force], which it says has three commands directing this military activity against Nicaragua. The brain, that is, the group that organizes and directs all this, is a command made up exclusively of U.S. citizens, of experts, it says, from the CIA and representatives of the U.S. Southern Command in Panama. This group is the brain, the article says. Then, under this group, is a group made up basically of members of the Honduran Army, with Colonel (Bermudez), it says, and with others of Latin American nationality, and under this group a command made up exclusively of former officials of the genocidal Somozist National guard.

I believe that there is no room for doubt as to what is happening in Nicaragua at this time. We have tried by all rational means available to civilized countries to prevent this situation.

You will remember that early last year we went to the UN Security Council. Commander Ortega gave a report on Reagan administration plans to invade Nicaragua. This sensible, serene and responsible statement by Commander Ortega was very well received at the United Nations.

Latin American countries that were then members of the Security Council -- Panama, which is no longer a member, and Guyana, which is still a member -- presented a plan for a resolution that was not aimed at condemning anyone. It was simply a call for commonsense, for respect for the fundamental principles of the UN Charter. It was a very well-balanced and important document. I recall that some of the members of the Security Council that are very good friends of the United States, after they had heard the text of the draft resolution, said that they did not see how anyone could oppose it, as opposing this draft resolution would mean rejecting the fundamental principles of the UN Charter.

However, after a lengthy debate, 12 of the 15 countries voted in favor of the resolution, 2 countries abstained, and the United States had no choice but to veto it. What the United States did then was to veto the UN Charter. This is a country that brags who about being a democratic country, ruled by law, which respects rules. Nevertheless, once again it showed that what it always does is disrespect all rules and laws in order to achieve what it considers to be its vital interests, to defend what it feels are its vital interests. In reality, the desire for liberation by the peoples of the world is always contrary to what the Reagan administration considers its vital interests.

I was referring to the UN Security Council meeting, the last one that was held last week. I was saying that Kirkpatrick simply refused to answer charges. Afterward, only 2 days ago, she was invited to speak on a morning television program in the United States, with the idea that she would reply to the charges she refused to answer at the Security Council. She did not accept the invitation. However, others did participate in the program, including a very important U.S. Senator, who was very clear in stating that the U.S. military intervention in Nicaragua is an undeniable and obvious fact.

In the course of the debate at the UN Security Council, 53 countries addressed the meeting. Some countries held the floor more than once, but 23 member countries of the United Nations participated in the debate. Of these 53 countries, only Honduras and El Salvador to some extent, supported the U.S. position, which sought to project the image that Central American problems are due to the danger or threat that Sandinism poses for the region. This is absurd, and was totally and categorically discarded and rejected by all the other UN members participating, which as I said totalled 53, including European countries that are very good friends of the United States and maintain very good relations with them.

Prior to this situation, you may recall that early this year a very important meeting of nonaligned countries was held here in Nicaragua exclusively to discuss the Latin American problem. On that occasion, in the final declaration, there was a clear, categorical repudiation of Reagan's interventionist policy in Central America, particularly in Nicaragua. Some time after that, the chiefs of state attending the New Delhi Nonaligned Summit protested the new and increasing threats and intimidating acts as well as the increasingly high number of attacks aginst Nicaragua and their growing gravity, particularly the violation of its airspace and territorial waters; the utilization of territory in other countries, both inside and outside the region, as bases for attacks and for the training of counterrevolutionary forces; and acts of terrorism and sabotage, especially attacks perpetrated by armed groups of former Somozist guards through the northern border, that is, from Honduras, which have resulted in a large number of deaths and considerable damage. The utilization of economic pressure against Nicaragua at the international level was also condemned. All these facts were considered part of a preconceived plan to harass and destabilize this country by a known foreign power; the Reagan administration.

The New Delhi summit also asked the Coordinating Bureau to follow up on the situation in the region.

The situation at this time is much more grave, much more serious. Crime and interventionism are graver and require a clearer and more categorical condemnation, much stronger than the one made in New Delhi a while ago. We are sure it will come, as the United States should no longer feel that it can continue commiting all kinds of abuses and crimes with impunity, under the false pretext that they are struggling for democracy and liberty. What it really wants is hegemony, total control, and to deny the peoples the right of self-determination. In the past few days we have seen many demonstrations in Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America repudiating these actions against Nicaragua. We are sure that at the meeting I will attend in the next couple of days -- the meeting of the 77, where I will have the opportunity to meet dozens of foreign ministers -- this will be one of the fundamental topics. The Nicaraguan people demand -- and have every right to do so -- the most ample, clear, and categorical solidarity. It is no longer appropriate to resort to the recourse of not mentioning names. Just as at a certain time we expressed a clear and categorical solidarity against the colonialist, imperialist aggression directed against the brother Argentine people, because those people had the right to call for that clear and categorical solidarity, our people also have that right, and we are sure that they will continue to receive it.

We have repeatedly made efforts to see how, through a constructive, clear and frank dialogue with representatives of the brotherly Honduran people we could overcome this dangerous situation generated by the fact that the United States considers Honduras to be the best place from which to launch a large-scale act of aggression against our country. Unfortunately, the response that we have always obtained from the Honduran representatives has always been a clear and categorical rejection and non-acceptance of the facts.

I read, I think it was yesterday, of an interview, a statement made by Foreign Minister Paz Barnica who, when he visited the OAS, was asked by a newsman to give his opinion of the reports that appear daily in all the world's media on the fact that Honduras is lending its territory for use as a base for aggression against Nicaragua by the United States. He said only that these were opinions of media that enjoyed great prestige. [sentence as heard] That was his reply.

Now, we don't want to dramatize, but I believe that it is clear, obvious and evident that to the extent that the Honduran representatives continue to betray the legitimate interests of their people, and to the extent that they continue to betray the legitimate interests of the Central American peoples, in the same measure that they continue lending their territory for aggression against Nicaragua, grows the possibility that imperialism may achieve what has always been an essential part of its plan; a much larger confrontation, a military confrontation between Nicaragua and Honduras. This is something that we continue to want to avoid, but it would seem that at this time the representatives of the Honduran people are unable to prevent this, because as I have said on so many occasions, Honduras is a country that has been intervened.

It is time for them to choose between the recovery of their sovereignty, to decide their own destiny and forge their own relations with their neighbors, or to continue to be used to fight a war that has nothing to do with the interests of our peoples or our countries.

I would like to say simply that it is a victory for our people that despite this escalation of intervention, despite all these aggressions, launched, directed, financed and equipped by the Reagan administration to destabilize our country, despite all this, our people want to carry out their traditional Holy Week activities. We consider this to be a victory.

I also wish to say in closing that we, our people, our government, the FSLN are all certain that despite this escalated invasion, despite the cynicism and the aggressiveness, the criminality of the Reagan policy, we will be able to deepen and increasingly consolidate this Sandinist people's revolution. Thank you very much.

[Ortega] Before leaving, we would like to especially thank the foreign newsmen for the way in which they have been working, in an attempt to cover objectively the events in our country, to cover this imperialist invasion that we are enduring. Many foreign newsmen have had the opportunity to visit a number of border towns and other parts of the country that the counterrevolutionaries claim to be controlling in an attempt to reinforce their invasion plan.

To our people we will say that the FSLN Directorate and our government will continue to welcome that fighting spirit, that determination to triumph, that great willingness to sacrifice and to work that our people are demonstrating at this time in order to optimistically and resolutely confront the escalated invasion that the present U.S. Administration is carrying out through the Somozist counterrevolutionaries.

Our workers, our peasants, organized in production, organized in defense, organized in our armed forces in the towns, as they were in the past against Walker and against the Yankee intervention of 1912 against Benjamin Zeledon, as Sandino did, just as they have always done in our history, will be able to confront and defeat acts of aggression carried out by the imperialists. Thank you.

[Announcer] At this time, the press conference is about to end. Let us see whether the newsmen want to ask some questions.

[Ortega] Did you want to ask some quick questions?
[Question indistinct]
[Ortega] In Mocoron, in the Honduran Mosquitia, there are about 1,000 organized counterrevolutionaries. A part of this force is trying to [words indistinct], the advance group. These are the forces that in the last few days have been trying to settle down, to penetrate our territory [words indistinct] aggressions.

[Question] How many are trying to penetrate Nicaraguan territory?

[Ortega] At this point, more or less one task force, some (?260) to 300 men. They have been active every day for the past 2 or 3 days.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] In the last 2 months, they have speedily grouped their forces in the Mosquitia.

[Question] But there are only (?260) [words indistinct] in Nicaraguan territory?

[Ortega] They fought us at the border area. Most of them have returned to Honduras, and from the other side of the border they are harassing us and trying to penetrate our territory again. A smaller group, comprised of [word indistinct] men, is still partly inside our territory and is currently being pursued by our forces in the area of Santa Clara.

[Question indistinct]
[Ortega] We are fighting inside our territory, but they are attacking both from Honduran territory and from inside our territory. All of this, however, is taking place in the border area.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] We clashed in that area yesterday. That force is being continously pursued. It has not had any combat initiative, and at present we have them pretty much harassed and pursued.

[Question indistinct]
[Ortega] Two task forces entered there, but they were small ones. We have estimated that there must be about 300 men there.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] Last time we said that some 1,200 men had penetrated our territory; at present there are less than 1,000, because two task forces have been practically dismembered. I have estimated that there may be around 800 men. They are operating near the border.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] You would have to stay there for a week, because their attacks are very scattered; their attacks are not concentrated. In other words, they are not fighting from set positions. They are fighting irregularly through their smaller units [words indistinct]. If one wanted to observe the fighting one would have to stay there a week, 10 days, or so, because fighting can take peace any moment. Other journalists have even asked for permission to film the fighting in (Icacahue), in Quilali.

[Question] Where were the forces dismembered?

[Ortega] These forces were dismembered in the area of Quilali and Wiwily.

[Question] Has there been any fighting along the southern border?

[Ortega] There has been practically no fighting in the southern area.

[Question] (?What about) Fatima?
[Ortega] Well, that was a very small harassment operation.

[Question] (?It) might be the opening of a new area of activities, as the (?counterrevolutionaries) put it.

[Ortega] It might be, but if one is to speak responsibly, there has been no dangerous or important situation along the southern border so far.

[Question] How do the counterrevolutionaries (?live)?

[Ortega] (?We don't know). I don't know if you have been in the area, but this is a mountainous jungle area, and the logistical support they brought -- their knapsacks, their canned food -- must have already been used up. Sometimes they reach the peasants' farms, where they kill cattle and eat them. This is how they manage to subsist -- they eat cattle and some tubers, etc. Conditions are very difficult, since they are being constantly harassed. They wanted to received aid from the air. This, however, is something they have been unable to do yet. Why? Because their forces have been unable to settle anywhere. They cannot receive logistical support from the air, since they are constantly moving from one place to another because our forces are chasing them.

[Question] In the last few days the revolution [as heard] has been insisting that it has downed planes and helicopters. Is this true?

[Ortega] (?Downed what?)
[Question] That it has downed planes and helicopters.
[Ortega] That is completely false [words indistinct].
[Question indistinct]
[Ortega] We already know that here on the Atlantic there is a big movement [words indistinct].
[Question indistinct]
[Ortega] How was that?
[Question] The NEW YORK TIMES says that [words indistinct]

[Ortega] There have been movements of (?forces), not involving thousands, but involving several hundreds, toward the area of El Truiunfo, toward Choluteca (?and) El Triunfo, on the Nicaraguan border. There have been movements there by several battalions lately. They are preparing a military exercise from 4 to 9 April, in an area of Choluteca. They have been intensely active [words indistinct]

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] Hondurans and Americans.

[Question] How long will Nicaragua tolerate the continued Honduran aid for the counterrevolutionaries?

[Ortega] As long as Hondurans do not enter Nicaragua, we will continue fighting within our territory against those forces that do penetrate our territory. We will also continue our diplomatic struggle and our foreign policy to keep the Honduran Army from supporting these forces.

[Question] According to you, they have already penetrated into Nicaraguan territory a few meters [words indistinct].

[Ortega] Well, they have penetrated a few meters into our territory, and they have withdrawn again. That already is a very dangerous situation, because Honduran soldiers might also get killed in our country.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] Right now there is nothing there. There could be, because that is a border. So far, however, there is nothing there. We do know that counterrevolutionary elements are moving along that side, but if we are to be responsible, we must say that the only harassment was the one staged in Fatima, in the area of Los Chiles in Costa Rica and San Carlos in Nicaragua. That was a quick operation, lasting only about 4 minutes. No great damage was caused.

[Question] What will Nicaragua do at Monday's meeting in San Jual del Sur [words indistinct]?

[Ortega] Those issues were already [words indistinct]. In other words, these problems have been brought forth before; they are not necessarily current issues.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] Well, our people (?should be) permanently (?on their feet), organized and prepared for defense. We are acting to maximum capacity -- our militia, our reserve, our entire army and forces. We are also promoting [words indistinct] in those areas where these bands operate. We must be ready to face this worsening situation. In other words, we are not going to be caught either sleeping or with our arms folded. We have both the right and the duty to try to be prepared to the best of our ability.

[Announcer] Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Father d'Escoto Brockman is also answering questions.

[D'Escoto -- in English] The (?newest direction) in the invasion that the United States [words indistinct] against Nicaragua. In fact, the United States is waging a war against Nicaragua. [Words indistinct] of the new elements that have penetrated our territory from the northeastern part of Nicaragua, in the Atlantic part of Nicaragua, in the Atlantic part of Nicaragua, in the north.

[Question indistinct]

[D'Escoto -- in English] As you know, they are what you call task forces. There are six task forces.

[Question indistinct]

[D'Escoto -- in English] The Somozists have four areound the Wiwili area, generally speaking, and two farther down. The two farther down are totally surrounded, and the four in the northern part [words indistinct] practically wiped out.

PASTORA REPORTEDLY SPOTTED BY CUBANS IN MANAGUA

PA311430 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Nicaragua in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] We have received news from (?reliable) sources in Managua to the effect that the espionage system implemented by the nine genocidals, which is being manned by the servile, filthy internationalists who are in our country, recently detected the presence of Commander Eden Pastora in the Bello Horizonte neighborhood in Managua. The opportunistic internationalists telephoned the offices of the fearful state security organization and of the aberrant newspaper BARRICADA. The news caused confusion and fear in both organizations, which are at the service of the nine traitors. The report was supplied by telephone by certain Cubans who live in Bello Horizonte and who spend their time spying and denouncing any activity or person who opposes the totalitarian dictatorship of the (?nine).

Commander Pastora was in various neighborhoods of our capital carrying out organizational tasks among the residents, to whom he explained the system and the development of the struggle waged by us patriots who are at war with the Somozist past and the FSLN totalitarianism and who are determined to give our people true freedom and democracy, concepts which have been betrayed and surrendered by the nine servants of Fidel and Andopov.

Commander Pastora has maintained constant contact with the neighborhoods and sectors of various parts of our country which are on the alert. They are only waiting for the order to fire that we will shout to the world in the next few days, in order to decide our country's destiny once and for all.

The Cuban satraps believed that by reporting Commander Pastora's presence in Bello Horizonte, they would enable the nine traitors to find him. This is what they most fervently desire and have tried to accomplish, because they are terrified by the knowledge that the struggle being waged by Commander Pastora, along with thousands of Nicaraguan patriots, such as Robelo; Brooklyn Rivera, leader of the Misurasata [Miskito, Sumu, Rama Sandinist Unity]; and thousands of our brothers who make up the army for the defense of the nation's sovereignty, will give our people their true freedom and true peace and democracy.

[Words indistinct] the Cuban internationalists to report the presence of Commander Pastora, because even if the murderers had sent people to seek him out, they would not have been able to find and assassinate him. Our people protect and defend Pastora, because they see him and the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, Arde, as the only paths of freedom by which our people will be able to satisfy their desires for freedom and democracy, which we are already achieving with the participation of all the people in the struggle against the totalitarian dictatorship of the nine Somozas.

Onward, brothers. Our army for the defense of the country's sovereignty is ready. It is waiting for the signal that will be given by Commander Pastora, top political and military leader of the Sandino Revolutionary Front and coordinator of Arde.

Onward, brothers. The order of the day is to annihilate all the filthy internationalists who are in our homeland, torturing, repressing and killing our people.

Death to the internationalist interferers of Russian imperialism; death to the nine commanders and their Russian clique!

The struggle for the freedom of Nicaragua is continuing. People of Nicaragua, give the order!

COMMENTARY CRITICIZES REBELS IN NICARAGUA

PA310033 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 29 Mar 83

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The Somozist bands, which in recent days have increased their attacks against Nicaragua from Honduran territory, are hopelessly condemned to failure. No one in his right mind can believe that those who not long ago, formed a notorious band of criminals, torturers and rapists can succeed in Nicaraguan territory. Those who think that the tragic and somber days of the hated Somozist National Guard will return to Nicaragua to establish a regime of terror like the one that existed until 18 July 1970 are mistaken.

In should be no surprise that the murderers of yesterday, who today are killing teachers, peasants and doctors, are receiving a quick and categorical reply from the heroic arms of the people in revolution. The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry issued an official communique that eloquently defines the criminal nature of those who in Honduran territory are receiving modern arms, supplies and money to fight the Nicaraguan people, just when the wounds from the war of liberation against the Somoza dynasty have begun to heal.

The official communique reported that two members of the Sandinist People's Army, two militiamen and Pierre Grosjean, a French doctor, were murdered last Saturday by a counterrevolutionary band that came from Honduras to attack the village of Rancho Grande, Matagalpa Department.

But they were not the only victims of the vile attack against a people that are trying to strengthen their independence and are working for national reconstruction. Many children were also wounded during the brutal attack by the Somozist counterrevolutionaries

The Nicaraguan official communique said that this is further proof of the criminal and genocidal nature of the enemies of the Sandinist revolution. Once again, the communique added, women, children and the elderly have been the victims of the hatred unleashed by those whom the U.S. Government is trying to present as defenders of democracy and Christian values.

The revolutionary process gets stronger, the more blows it receives from the counter-revolutionary bands. This is a natural reaction from a liberated people, who are not going to allow anyone to snatch their gains from them. A similar and irreversible decision has been taken by those who in a beautiful act of internationalist solidarity are cooperating and helping Nicaragua.

Several Cuban teachers who participated in the national literacy campaign in Nicaragua were murdered, but hundreds and hundreds more Cuban teachers are firm and standing up ready to fight to the end, together with their Nicaraguan brothers. The death of the French doctor, victim of Somozist hatred, has also contributed to strengthen the spirit of solidarity of his countrymen. In a document issued in Managua, a group of 45 French doctors, nurses and technicians working in Nicaragua said: the death of Grosjean does not frighten us. We will continue working on behalf of the health of the Nicaraguan people and the education of adults in this country.

Sergio Ramirez, member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, has said that there is undeniable proof that those really responsible for the death of the French doctor, Cuban teachers, children, women, old people, peasants, soldiers and militiamen are the ones that the United States is supplying the arms to the counterrevolutionary bands to attack.

U.S., OTHER COUNTRIES SAID TO REJECT PEACE MOVE

PA302158 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] The United States, Honduras and El Salvador have reiterated their disapproval of the peace proposal for Central America sponsored by Mexico, Venezuela, Panama and Colombia, which proposes dialogue and political negotiation as the appropriate channel to solve the Central American crisis and rejects any military solution to the problems affecting the region. The representatives of Brazil, the Dominican Republic and Bolivia categorically insisted that force not be used in Central America, and that all countries stop actions that would increase the tension.

COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH SPAIN

FL311325 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Luis Yanez Varnuevo Garcia, president of the Spanish-American Cooperation Institute, has said that the inter-institutional agreement signed with Cuba constitutes a forward step in technical assistance to our country. Shortly after signing the agreement, (Yanez Varnuevo) held a press conference at Jose Marti International Airport, where he said he was pleased with what he described as a brief but very fruitful visit to Cuba.

The agreement, signed for the Cuban side by Jose Fernandez de Cossio, vice president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, provides special attention to the citrus, public health, education, culture and scientific research sectors. (Yanez Varnuevo) said that Spain will provide its assistance in the restoration of historic sites in old Havana.

BRIEFS

ENERGY CONSERVATION MEETING -- A meeting to discuss energy conservation is being held at the Economic Planning School in Havana. Approximately 600 delegates and guests from every area of production and services are attending this meeting. Pedro Miret, member of the party Politburo, and Joel Domenech, vice president of the Council of Ministers and minister of basic industries, presided over the meeting. Delegates discussed problems related to the control of the consumption of lubricants and the planning of this consumption. [Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1230 GMT 30 Mar 83 FL]

EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES RESEARCH MEETING -- Participants in the 10th meeting of directors of central institutes of educational sciences research from socialist countries, underway at Havana's Palace of Conventions, considered that the 1981-82 Multilateral Scientific Cooperation Plan had yielded positive results. Delegates from the 10 countries attending the forum agreed on the need to send the results of the research to other members of the socialist community. Bilateral talks on scientific cooperation opened yesterday. [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Mar 83 FL]

FAO REGIONAL DIRECTOR -- [Mario Havill], FAO regional director, has arrived in Havana on an official visit of several days. He will tour various ongoing projects sponsored by the FAO in coordination with Cuban organizations. [Text] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Mar 83 FL]

ONTARIO TRADE MISSION -- The Cuban Chamber of Commerce last night hosted a banquet in honor of the Ontario trade mission visiting our country. The Canadian mission is headed by (Thomas Leslie Horowitz), joint deputy minister for information and auxiliary services of Ontario Province's Ministry of Industry and Commerce. [Text] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 Mar 83 FL]

SWISS LABOR PARTY OFFICIAL -- Jesus Montane, alternate member of the party politburo and chief of the Central Committee's Department of Foreign Relations, received (Karl Odermann), member of the Swiss Labor Party Political Bureau and chief editor of its [name indistinct] weekly, who is visiting Cuba at the invitation of GRANMA newspaper. [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 29 Mar 83 FL]

GRENADA

WHITEMAN FEARS U.S.-BACKED INVASION OF ISLAND

FL312212 Bridgetown CANA in English 2150 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Montreal, March 31, REUTER-CANA -- Grenada's government believes the Caribbean island could be the target of a U.S.-backed invasion "in a matter of days" and has put the militia on full alert, Foreign Minister Unison Whiteman said today. He said his government has seen signs of increased training activity by mercenaries near Miami which he claimed have been travelling between the United States and one of Grenada's neighbours. He refused to name the other country.

Violations of Grenada's airspace by U.S. fighter planes are now so frequent that they have become a hazard to civil aviation, Whiteman told a press conference. "The Reagan administration is looking for another so-called Gulf of Tonkin incident to justify an attack," Whiteman said.

He said construction of an airport on the island, which the U.S. says is a sign of increased Soviet involvement, has long been planned by the Grenada Government to promote tourism. This week, Grenada's Marxist government said it plans a massive recruitment and training programme to respond to U.S. threats, adding that it fears an invasion by mercenaries armed and financed by the Central Intelligence Agency. These mercenaries are most Cuban exiles, Whiteman said.

TAYLOR SCORES U.S. FOR NICARAGUA INVASION

FL312131 Bridgetown CANA in English 2121 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, March 31, CANA -- Grenada's Ambassador to the United Nations Caldwell Taylor has blamed the United States Administration of President Ronald Reagan for the current spate of fighting in Nicaragua between Government troops and remnants of the late dictator Anastasio Somoza.

The government-run "Radio Free Grenada" said that Ambassador Taylor, who is also the deputy foreign minister in the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG), made the accusation during a session this week of the United Nations Security Council.

The radio report last night quoted the diplomat as saying that the invasion of Nicaragua by ex-guardsmen of the late General Somoza was no accident, nor was it a spontaneous act on the part of "a motley band of cut throats."

Ambassador Taylor charged that the United States, which is a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, encouraged, contrived and financed the invasion of Nicaragua, now ruled by the leftwing Sandinista National Liberation Front of Daniel Ortega. He said that the Reagan administration has been engaged "with every imaginable kind of activity designed to frustrate the legitimate aspirations of the peoples of the Caribbean and Latin America."

The radio reported that the Grenadian diplomat told the security council the use of force would not solve the problems facing the region, but would only serve to bring more on and further polarize "our fragile societies." The problems facing the Latin American and Caribbean region, he said, were profound and stemmed mainly from the archaic socio-economic structures that the countries in the area have inherited from the colonial powers.

Said Ambassador Taylor: "The Reagan administration must understand that the noble attempts of the people of our region to escape oppression and exploitation and the vicious cycle of poverty and misery do not constitute a threat to the United States. The real danger in the region is the persistence of oppression, the denial of land to the tillers, the distortion of the realities of the region, and the strictly indigenous upheavals in the region."

"The people of the region do not want confrontation with the United States, but was demanding merely the right to be able to construct new societies in order that peace might be brought to millions who have endured centuries of torment, and that bread and justice might be given to those who have been denied," he added.

AMBASSADOR TO SOVIET UNION EXPLAINS AIRPORT

FL312152 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2105 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Grenadian Ambassador to the Soviet Union Richard William Jacobs today said during a press conference in Moscow that his country does not represent a threat to anyone and that it practices peace. He termed as absurd statements made by U.S. officials that Grenada is a threat to U.S. national security, because the Caribbean island only has 130,000 inhabitants.

Jacobs noted that Grenada's economy basically relies on tourism and that is the reason for building an international airport. The Grenadian ambassador recalled that the initial project of the airport was made 26 years ago by specialists from the United States, Great Britain and other nations, but when the revolution triumphed in 1979, they refused to continue the plan.

Ambassador Jacobs also explained that his country's airport is being built by 17 nations, which have offered to do it. He condemned the aggressive direction of U.S. policy in Central America and the Caribbean Basin, and said the objective of those actions is evident inasmuch as Washington is trying to crush the revolutionary movement in the area.

The Grenadian ambassador to Moscow cited as an example of the U.S. meddling policy, the recent incursions into Nicaragua by counterrevolutionary bands, which are trained by U.S. advisers. Jacobs recalled that Grenada is also a target of the United States and, in documents shown during the press conference, demonstrated the aid given by the CIA to counterrevolutionary elements outside of the island.

HAVANA NOTES WARSHIP VIOLATING TERRITORIAL WATERS

FL311215 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Grenada's Interior Ministry charged that an unidentified warship violated Grenada's territorial waters Monday evening and refused to respond to signals made by Grenadian Coast Guard vessels.

Grenada charged this week that an attack on its teritory by the U.S. Government was imminent, taking advantage of Yankee warships currently on maneuvers and roaming Caribbean waters.

The unidentified warship was sighted some 5 miles off Point Salines, where Grenada's new international airport is under construction. The warship remained in that position for some 3 hours, and after ignoring the Coast Guard signals, departed slowly towards the north and along the western coast of Grenada. During the entire time that it remained in Grenada's territorial waters, the unidentified warship was kept under surveillance by the Coast Guard of the tiny country.

JAMAICA

VAZ REAFFIRMS JAMAICA'S COMMITMENT TO CARICOM

FL311710 Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 28 Mar 83 pp 1, 19

[Excerpts] Industry and commerce minister, the Hon Douglas Vaz, on Friday night reaffirmed Jamaica's commitment to the furtherance of trade with the Caribbean Community (Caricom) and said that the economic measures adopted by Jamaica were mandatory and without viable alternatives. Jamaica's development in export, he said, had largely been as a result of first, the Carifta Agreement, and subsequently the existing Caribbean Common Market agreement or Caricom. Mr. Vaz was speak at the second annual awards dinner of the P3 Industrial Chemicals Division of Henkel Chemicals (Caribbean) limited at the Courtleigh, Trafalgar Road.

While Jamaica proceeded on a long-term economic structural adjustment programme, for most manufacturers Caricom remained the destination for most exports, he said. "We do not wish to have the impression, wrongly or mistakenly created, that we do not value Caricom trade, or depend on Caricom trade," he said. "It is vital that it be understood that Jamaica's recent economic measures, in formalising the parallel market, which the leader of the opposition conveniently forgets that his government introduced, and which was called the no funds regime, were mandatory and without viable alternatives."

"This government, faced in 1983 with debt repayments of US$800 million, of which Mr. Manley's government rescheduled $700 million, which falls due this year, and which we have to repay, though we didn't spend it and have reaped no benefit as a result of it, $800 million plus oil payments left precious little to cover the other needs for import.

"In 1982 we lost nearly 30 per cent of the mining sector earnings. Even the former government should realise that 30 per cent of 70 per cent lost is calamitous and that positive action and planning must be undertaken to redress such a potential calamity.

SUNDAY GLEANER ASSESSES CUBAN FOREIGN POLICY

FL311905 Kingston SUNDAY GLEANER in English 27 Mar 83 pp 12, 24

[Article "Castro and the Falklands" by Wayne Fairley]

[Text] Now that the dust has settled somewhat over the Falkland Islands crisis between Britain and Argentina, Cuban attempts to exploit the conflict have become apparent. Faced with growing isolation throughout Latin America over the past five years, and the dubious distinction of being the single most divisive force in Latin American diplomacy for more than two decades, Havana apparently hoped to use the war over the Falklands to refurbish its own image.

The campaign has met with little success so far, even though Cuban leader Fidel Castro has lent his personal prestige to the effort to exploit the war as anti-colonialist issue. In some ways, it has even backfired by calling into question Havana's real intentions throughout the region.

Castro first interpreted the Argentine invasion as a typical diversion by an anti-communist military government to distract its people from the severe domestic problems it faced. Buenos Aires had been called a "fascist capital" in the official Cuban press for many years, and allegations that thousands of left wing opponents of the military government have disappeared were a staple of Havana's propaganda against Argentina.

But upon Britain coming to the defence of its citizens in the islands, Castro thought again and decided this could be an opportunity to gain mileage among his Latin neighbours, by changing his tune. He suddenly "admired" the Argentine troops who had invaded the islands and extolled their early successes to reporters as being "very clean and elegant." Argentine Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Mendez from the "fascist capital" was invited to Havana to address the June meeting of the non-alinged nations under the then chairmanship of the Cuban president, and the two signed a $100 million trade agreement. In a transparent attempt to dramatize Cuba's "concern" for the dependence of Latin American nations, the Cuban leader also publicly offered to provide Argentina with military support.

For his part, Mr. Costa Mendez got so carried away by his host's public generosity that he forgot about his right wing government's strong anti-communism long enough to refer to Cuba as "the pride of the Caribbean," and for good measure tossed in some praise for communist Vietnam for their "struggles to gain independence."

Undoubtedly Havana's main interest in exploiting the war issue was to impress countries such as Venezuela and Peru, with whom diplomatic relations have faltered over recent years, and which strongly favoured Argentina's take-over of the Falklands. Caracas however, soon learned that whle Castro might be ready to climb on a propaganda bandwagon to appear to be in the mainstream of Latin American opinion, he was not interested in reasonable approaches to old problems or diplomatic trade-offs. The first sign that this was the case was Havana's willingness to use the power of its then chairmanship of the Non-Aligned Movement to ensure acceptance of Venezuela's application for membership, but invited the foreign minister of the "fascist" regime in Argentina to speak at the conference instead of Venezuela's. Clearly this served Castro's propaganda purposes more than the admission of democratic Venezuela.

Long before the Falklands issue arose, Havana had bristled under Caracas' well-documented accusation that Cuba had attempted to undermine Venezuelan democracy during the mid-sixties. The failure of the Venezuelan courts to find two anti-Castro Cuban exiles guilty of blowing up a Cuban plane over Barbados in 1976, and the unwillingess of the Venezuelan Government to override the court's 1980 decision added new dimensions to the deteriorating relations between Havana and Caracas. The Cuban leadership was infuriated to the point of withdrawing their diplomats from Caracas.

President Luis Herrera Campins made it quite clear in a statement that "Venezuela is not going to manipulate the decisions of its courts." The Cubans, being not versed in the principles of democracy, convulsed under this statement; in Cuba the Constitution and political structure ensure that court decisions and policies of the Communist Party coincide. Havana's relations with Venezuela have also been strained by Caracas' claim that a mineral rich area of Guyana was wrongly ceded to that country while it was a British colony. Cuba is indebted to Guyana for the use of its airport as a refueling stop for Cuban troops sent to Angola and therefore has good reason to distinguish between Venezuela's territorial claims and those of Argentina.

For the moment, it seems that U.S. President Reagan may have gained more in his Latin American trip, than Castro had out of his "concern" for Latin American independence. All indications seems to suggest that the President's trip was a success in spite of American support for Britain in the war. In Brazil a left wing newspaper ran a story on the visit, with the headline, "Partners at Last." Havana has to face the fact that combined with the evidence that Castro had no intention of backing up his propaganda campaign with any real changes in his diplomacy, Reagan's diplomatic blitz has dashed Cuba's hopes to exploit the Falklands war at Washington's expense.

ARTICLE QUESTIONS BASIS FOR U.S. POLICY IN L.A.

FL311730 Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 28 Mar 83 p 8

[Article entitled: Threat to the Region]

[Text] Over the past year the Government of Nicaragua has been alerting the countries of the region to the danger of a likely invasion of that country by forces associated with the deposed, fascist Somoza regime. For some time now, the U.S. press has leaked convincing information linking U.S. counter-insurgency strategies with regrouped anti-Sandinista forces which all seemed poised to mount an attack on the Nicaraguan regime.

Some of us were inclined to dismiss these predictions as empty leftist propaganda. The predictions have, however, come ture and the recent invasion of Nicaragua by these political groupings that obviously enjoy the blessing and backing of the United States represents a new level of escalation in regional confrontation between pro-U.S. and anti-U.S. power bloc.

The timing of this invasion is perhaps significant. I doubt if the U.S. really believes the invading force has much of a chance to topple the Nicaraguan regime. The objective I think is to put the Nicaraguans under pressure at a time when the Nicaraguan supported guerrillas in El Salvador appear to be decisively weakening the pro-U.S. El Salvador regime, and the battle for control of El Salvador appears to be moving toward dramatic successes by the leftist guerrilla forces.

Two other recent developments fill out a rather disturbing profile of trends. Firstly, U.S. President Reagan recently re-affirmed in rather hawkish and militaristic language his government's policyline, which inists countries in the region who align with Cuba and the Soviet Union and become platforms for a Soviet military presence must be considered as just targets for U.S. hostility and aggression.

Now every country has a right to defend its borders from hostile external forces. But on what basis can the U.S. claim to have the right to determine which global power bloc countries should affiliate to? On what principle can this claim be justified except by the imperialistic notion that the Caribbean and Central America constitute a sort of U.S. owned tenement yard? More fundamentally, the idea that tiny states like Nicaragua and Grenada represent threats to U.S. security is a simple-minded and ludicrous distortion of regional power realities that insults the leaders of the region who are asked to believe this nonsense.

After all, Cuba has been in the Soviet orbit for two decades and is in fact a member of the Eastern European Economic Community (COMECON). Yet in what way has Cuba threatened U.S. security? The case about the Cuban threat to the U.S. is made most of the time in terms of Cuban influence over small border states in the region. But this formulation itslef begs the question of whether an expansion of Cuban allies in the region necessarily threatens vital and crucial U.S. security interests. Where is the confirming evidence over the past 20 years?

The Cubans are into as much power games as the U.S. but that in no way provides any legitimacy or justification for the imperial doctrines of the U.S. Government which ignore the sovereignty of small states and has proceeded to fabricate a basis for militarised aggression against those states once they break ideologically with the U.S. Bloc and align with the Soviet Union. The interests of the Caribbean people will never be served by our giving support and endorsement to this effort to provoke militarism. Not even the U.S. people and legislators believe that these policies are either realistic, likely to be effective or have any moral basis. The people of the reign must reject them.

The second development concerns statements by the U.S. which allege that Grenada is now tied into the Soviet military axis. Those statements of course place Grenada pretty much in the same target area for aggression as had earlier U.S. pronouncements on Nicaragua.

The political conflicts in Nicaragua have a basis that is quite independent of either the United States and the Soviet Union. Clearly their outcome so far has not favoured or comforted the U.S. The same can be said for Grenada.

On what basis can the U.S. maintain troops and a military presence in South Korea, yet deny the right of pro-Soviet Union small states to link themselves into that power bloc.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

PETROLEUM COMPANY SUFFERS 27-PERCENT LOSS

FL302055 Bridgetown CANA in English 1838 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Mar 30, CANA -- The Trinidad Tesoro Petroleum Company Limited has blamed uncontrollable costs for its 43.6 million dollars (one TT dollar; 41 cents U.S.) drop in profit in 1981. The company's net earnings fell to 117.2 million dollars (one TT dollar; 41 cents U.S.) in 1981 from 160.8 million in 1980. It was a 27.1 per cent fall-off.

According to the company annual report for 1981, costs such as royalties, a local market subsidy and a supplemental petroleum tax -- all based on production on gross revenues -- jumped by 245.6 million dollars or 70.6 per cent in fiscal 1981 over 1980. This accounted for some 593.5 million dollars and absorbed 58.7 per cent of gross revenues in 1981, the report said.

The oil company also claimed that direct and indirect operating costs increased 27.2 per cent in 1981 over fiscal 1980, accounting for 18.8 per cent of gross revenues compared to 17.4 per cent in 1980.

The adverse impact of this increase was to some extent offset by a 27 million dollar or 322 per cent increase in net miscellaneous income, mainly from short-term investment representing 2.7 per cent of gross income, the report said.

Notwithstanding the change in fortunes experienced in fiscal 1980, the company continued to maintain an agressive capital expenditure posture and ploughed back its entire 1981 earnings to invest 139.1 million dollars, compared to 110.8 million dollars in 1980.

The slow down in the company's growth, as evidenced by the down-turn of some of the key financial indices in 1981, persisted in 1982 with average crude production remaining flat and prices declining from 1981 levels as a result of the glut in the world crude market, the report said.

Expenditure has, however, continued to rise and 1982 net earnings were expected to fall substantially below the 1981 performance, the report said.